Parks Master Plan - 2026

May 2026
Parks of Tomorrow




COUNTY OF
Brant
Simply Grand

Team Acknowledgement

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Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that the County of Brant is located on the lands and territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, the Six Nations of the Grand River, and the traditional territory of the Attiwanderonk, full of rich Indigenous history and home to many First Nations, Inuit, and Métis people today. We recognize the significance of their contributions to the past, present, and future of this land.

As a County, we have a shared responsibility for the stewardship of the land on which we live and work and a commitment to the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action. We commit to continue learning, reflecting on our past, and working in allyship.

The Parks Master Plan pledges to collaboration with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and the Six Nations of the Grand River. We will continue to seek out and foster partnerships with Indigenous governments and Indigenous community members as we work through the objectives of the Parks Master Plan. Our desire to strengthen relationships, engage in meaningful conversations and willingness to learn will inform the implementation of the Parks Master Plan and future work plans.

Table of Contents

Team Acknowledgement **3**

Project Steering Committee 3
Core Project Team 3
Project Extended Team 3

Land Acknowledgement **4**

Executive Summary **8**

Purpose *8*

Strategic Priorities *9*

Parks Master Plan Recommendations *10*
Creating & Connecting Quality Park Spaces 11
Protecting, Preserving & Enhancing Natural Splendor 11
Fostering Sustainability, Accessibility & Adaptability 12
Diversity, Equity & Inclusivity 12
Develop Strong Partnerships & Alliances 13

Section 1: Introduction **14**

Current & Long-Term Goals *19*
Preserve and Enhance Natural Heritage, Parkland, & Connected Open Spaces: 19
Enhance Existing Parkland: 19
Create Livable & Healthy Communities: 20
Integrate Parks with Streetscapes, Trails, & Communities: 20
Optimize Park Opportunities & Usage: 21
Support Equity & Inclusion Across Diverse Communities: 21
Addressing Resiliency and Sustainability Climate Change: 22

Section 2: Our Parks, Foundation for the Future **23**

Formulation of the Parks Plan *24*

Conformance to County Plans and Policies *24*
The County of Brant, 2023 Official Plan 25
Parkland Dedication 26
Recreation Master Plan (2017) 27
Provincial Planning Statement, 2024 28

Section 3: Demographics **29**

Population Development *30*

Forecasted Population Analysis *31*
Parks for All Ages 32
Cultural Diversity 34
Income Equity 37
Indigenous Reconciliation 38

Sector Trends *40*
Population Growth 41
Aging Population 41
Health & Wellness 42
Active Transportation 43
Volunteerism 44

Parks Gap Assessment & Analysis *45*
Park Gap Analysis Recommendations: 45
Proper Park Maintenance 53
Implementing Solutions to Address the Gaps 53
Parkland Classifications 54
Parkland Provision as of 2024 56
Park Amenities & Facilities 57

Zones of Focused Development *65*
Expected Areas of Growth – County-Wide Plan 66

Responding to Change *67*
Climate Change Adaptation 68
Climate Action Plan Adaptation Methods 69
Tree Canopy Coverage Study – Summary of Findings 71
Current County of Brant Initiatives – Parks & Forestry 71

Section 4: Community Outreach **73**

Strategic Engagement *74*
Engagement Summary 76

Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation Engagement *77*
Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation Recommendations 78

Six Nations of the Grand River Engagement *80*
Six Nations of the Grand River Recommendations 81

Section 5: Park System Assessment **83**

Existing Conditions Assessment *84*
Parkland Walkability Overview 88
Parkland Classification Overview 97
Parkland Analysis 98

Parkland Inventory *100*
Anticipated Parkland & Open Green Spaces by 2051 104
County Wide Parkland Walkability Plan 106

Section 6: Optimizing Park Facility Utilization **108**

Park Facility Bookings *109*
Picnic Areas 114
Soccer Fields 114
Beach Volleyball 116
Disc Golf 116
Ball Diamonds 117
Park Bookings 118
Adult & Youth Group Registrations 119
Tournaments & Sporting Events 120

Section 7: Parkland Strategies 122

Parkland Provision Strategy *123*
Parkland Dedication for Parks and Recreation Facilities 124
Retention of Existing County-owned Parkland 125
Disposal of County-owned Land 125
Targeted Land Acquisition 125
Parkland Dedication Recommendations 126

Alternate Strategies for Parkland Provision *128*
Shared Use Agreements & Easements 128
Privately-Owned Public Space (POPS) 128
Repurposing of Surplus Municipal Lands 129
Off-Site Park Conveyance by Negotiation 129
Partnership Opportunities 129
Community Planning Permit System 131

Section 8: Development & Implementation Strategy 132

Parks Implementation Strategy & Action Plan *133*
Parks Implementation Strategy & Action Plan Recommendations 135

Funding the Parks Master Plan *145*
Parks Budget & Cost per Capita 146

Funding Mechanisms *147*
Development Charges 147
Cash-in-lieu of Parkland Funding 148
Rate / Tax Support / Other Funding Sources 148

Conclusion 149

Appendix 1 - Summary of Implications for Planning Division

Executive Summary

Purpose

Parks, including open space and natural areas, are vital public services that contribute to the rich culture and vibrancy of communities within the County. Residents of the County value and use parks and open spaces as gathering places, for relaxation, and for the opportunity to engage in active sports and recreational pursuits. While the County will change and grow in the coming years, it is a priority that all residents continue to have access to the benefits provided by these parks and recreation facilities.

This Parks Master Plan ("the Plan") examines the need for parkland in the County and guides the growth and improvement of the County's parks and open space system. In doing so, it responds to the questions of how much parkland is necessary to meet the needs of the County's residents today and in the future. The Plan will examine where and what types of parks are required, and how these lands can be acquired and accessed by residents. Considerations in preparing the Plan include Indigenous Engagement, a comprehensive inventory of existing municipal parks, population change forecasting, future park demand analysis, accessibility improvements and approaching the Plan with an environmental preservation lens.

The Plan will set the direction for parkland to 2051 to work alongside the County's 2023 Official Plan (A Simply Grand Plan) and Municipal Comprehensive Review (MCR). The Plan will identify a framework that lays the foundation for parks service delivery, while allowing flexibility to respond to the changing needs of the community.

Strategic Priorities

Through thorough analysis and engagement with key stakeholders, five strategic priorities were identified that require a coordinated effort and resource allocation.

1. **Creating & Connecting Quality Park Spaces**
2. **Protecting, Preserving & Enhancing Natural Splendor**
3. **Fostering Sustainability, Accessibility & Adaptability**
4. **Diversity, Equity & Inclusivity**
5. **Develop Strong Partnerships & Alliances**

These priorities are critical for the County's growth and development and demand a coordinated approach and effective resource allocation to ensure successful implementation. By aligning our efforts and mobilizing our resources effectively, we can address these priorities directly and make significant progress within our organization.

Parks Master Plan Recommendations

A comprehensive set of recommendations have been carefully developed to help the County achieve the five strategic priorities outlined in the Parks Master Plan. This plan serves as a vital framework for enhancing the community's parks and recreational areas, ensuring that they meet the evolving needs of residents and visitors.

The actions proposed in this plan are not just theoretical; they represent a proactive approach to preserving and developing parks over the next twenty-six years, extending to 2051. This long-term vision is essential for creating sustainable and vibrant green spaces that can be enjoyed by future generations.

Additionally, the recommendations highlight the significance of community involvement and feedback, ensuring that park development aligns with the wishes and needs of the local population. By establishing clear goals and actionable steps, the County aims to promote environmental stewardship, enhance recreational opportunities, and improve the overall quality of life.

Implementing these recommendations will provide a strong framework for funding, maintenance, and community engagement initiatives, ultimately transforming the park system into a cornerstone of the County’s identity and a source of pride for its residents. The County is committed to regularly reviewing and updating the plan to adapt to changing circumstances and ensure that the parks continue to serve their purpose effectively in the years to come.

Creating & Connecting Quality Park Spaces

1. Emphasize the creation of connected trails, active transportation facilities, and additional parks to enhance access to green spaces in areas that are lacking.

2. Provide diverse and appropriate parks and amenities to meet the changing needs of current residents and forecasted community growth.

3. Prioritize regular investments in the maintenance and rehabilitation of park assets.

4. Evaluate the current overall usage of park facilities bookings for sports fields to ascertain whether they are being underutilized or overutilized.

5. Implement strategic placement of signage, accessible wayfinding, and interpretive features.

6. Meet the parkland provision target of **4.5 hectares per capita.**

Protecting, Preserving & Enhancing Natural Splendor

7. Preserve natural ecosystems by conserving, restoring and expanding habitats, fostering reclamation, integrating nature into new developments, and advocating for sustainable methods to enhance ecological diversity.

8. Identify priority areas for the establishment of natural spaces and urban forests to achieve the 30% canopy coverage as specified in the Climate Action Plan. This strategy will enable the expansion of green spaces, safeguard existing ecosystems, and facilitate the restoration of areas that have experienced degradation.

Fostering Sustainability, Accessibility & Adaptability

9. Address the challenges posed by climate change through the strategic development of resilient parks and trails.

10. Undertake naturalization and tree planting initiatives through public events, park planning, increasing operational efficiencies and community engagement and information sharing.

11. Ensure Park design incorporates AODA Built Environment standards.

12. Collaborate with the Policy Planning team to create a strong Community Planning Permit System that supports the acquisition, growth and maintenance of parkland in the County.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusivity

13. Provide opportunities for fulsome engagement and input from all residents, including Indigenous peoples, to ensure parks are designed to be welcoming, foster truth and reconciliation and maximize use.

14. Facility provision standards for all amenities should be prioritized for implementation based on demonstrated needs as well as pivoting to accommodate new trends.

15. Identify underutilized areas and implement strategies to optimize recreational benefits for residents.

16. Plan to accommodate and support new festivals and events by including park amenities that can facilitate traditional activities of various cultural groups.

17. Enhance and improve communication of vital information regarding park locations and regulations by clearly presenting maps, guidelines and reservation steps, ensuring visitors can easily find and utilize the parks and their offerings.

18. Ensure CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) principles are included in park designs to increase public safety and reduce the likelihood of crime.

Develop Strong Partnerships & Alliances

19. Foster collaboration with service clubs, local organizations, and businesses to enhance recreational opportunities in parks and explore potential partnerships.

20. Engage with the public and park users to identify and prioritize new amenities that align with the community's needs.

21. Regularly review and revise policies and fee schedules to facilitate the affordability and organization of small-scale outdoor events within the County.

Section 1: Introduction



Elliott Field, St. George, ON

Section 1: Introduction

Open public spaces provide opportunities for leisure, socializing, and physical activity, fostering healthy habits and reducing the incidence of diseases associated with sedentary or isolated lifestyles.

The intent of the County of Brant's Parks Master Plan ("the Plan") is to ensure all residents have access to the benefits and services provided by parks and related amenities as the County grows and changes. The Plan looks at the County's current park inventory and usage and informs what is required to serve the needs of the County's residents to 2051.

Parks are key indicators of the quality of life of communities and residents. Their value continues to grow over time while contributing to human and environmental health, ecological heritage, and cultural land value. Parks within the county fabric range in size, scale, and location and can over time reflect the character, history, and transformations of communities. The changing needs and priorities of residents will influence changes in programming, renewal of amenities, and recreational opportunities provided. As important assets in all neighbourhoods, parks contribute positively to the health, social wellbeing and the economic considerations of the County.

Well-informed park planning ensures functional, attractive, and accessible spaces are available to meet a variety of needs for the community. Parks positively contribute to the health of the County's natural systems. They provide environmental benefits such as reducing the urban heat island effect, supporting carbon sequestration, the purification of infiltration areas that assist in regenerating and improving ground water, surface water quality and air quality.

In preparing this plan, a literature review was undertaken of relevant provincial and municipal legislation with implications to parks and recreation. A draft outline was developed, and a body of work was generated based on relevant County plans and polices.

Through a review of the County's existing park inventory and population and an analysis of future development trends, current and future baseline metrics were developed.

The actions herein represent a balanced assessment of existing community needs

weighed against fiscal and implementation realities, as well as considerations of projected demand and future needs for servicing.


Mt. Pleasant Park, Mt. Pleasant

This Plan does not include:

- Green spaces, sports fields and recreation facilities that are not owned, leased, or operated by the County of Brant;
- Issues related to operations and maintenance, such as garbage pick-up, grass mowing and facility conditions are outlined in the Service Standards; or
- Municipally owned green space, such as Urban Natural Features, that cannot be actively reprogrammed or used for facilities and amenities.

This Plan has been prepared to fulfill the requirements of a municipal parks master plan under Section 42 of the Planning Act. Specifically, this Plan examines the need for parkland in the County in accordance with Subsection 42 (4.1) of the Planning Act and complies with the consultation requirements specified in Subsection 42 (4.2), to:

- Allow the County to adopt specific policies dealing with the provision of lands for parks, or other public recreational facilities, and the use of alternative parkland dedication requirement as outlined in the 2023 Official Plan - *A Simply Grand Plan*. The provision allows for increased parkland dedication in areas of higher density such as proposed by the Official Plan.
- Permit the revised Parkland Dedication By-law to provide for the alternative parkland dedication requirement after the current By-law is repealed or expires.

Current & Long-Term Goals

The County has developed a comprehensive Parks Master Plan with several key goals and objectives:

Preserve and Enhance Natural Heritage, Parkland, & Connected Open Spaces:

1. Acquisition of additional natural heritage lands that contribute to the connectivity of parkland.
2. Creation and Expansion of an interconnected network of open spaces to accommodate a specified ratio of population to parkland and natural areas.
3. Restoration of deteriorated natural areas and underutilized areas within parkland or adjacent to parkland by providing a diversity of indigenous native seed mixes, plants and trees.
4. Promote restoration through opportunities and collaboration with Indigenous knowledge holders to create a sense of pride and ownership in the community. Examples include invasive species removal, planting days, and working with experts at the Kayanase Greenhouse.
5. Establishment of conservation easements on private property and facilitation of land donations to be integrated into County green spaces.
6. Dedication of additional undevelopable or protected lands for parkland and/or open space through development projects.
7. Implementation of public education and outreach programs to increase awareness about the importance of parkland and natural heritage.
8. Construction of new pathways, linkages and safe routes between parks and other urban areas.

Enhance Existing Parkland:

9. Enhancement of public parks through the incorporation of additional facilities and amenities such as playgrounds, fitness equipment, sport fields, public washrooms, benches and planters.
10. Improving accessibility for individuals with disabilities and tailoring amenities for various age groups.
11. Inclusion of design elements that promote social interaction for community members.
12. Rehabilitation of parks as outlined in the asset management plan and in response to trends and community needs.

Create Livable & Healthy Communities:

13. Providing ten (10) square meters of parkland per resident and ensuring that there is either a park or public facility within 400 meters of all residents.
14. Include Community gardens within the County. These can play a vital role in promoting healthy eating and functioning as social centers that facilitate resident connections, knowledge sharing and relationship building.
15. Enhancing parks with public art installations.
16. Providing infrastructure to support special events and cultural celebrations.
17. Ensuring accessibility of parks through implementation and adherence to the County of Brant Accessible Design Standards.
18. Engaging and incorporating Indigenous history, values and species.
19. Ensure active sport infrastructure is distributed equitably throughout the County to reduce health risks and improve mental and physical well-being.
20. Incorporate diverse perspectives into the planning process, including professionals such as landscape architects, environmental experts, community leaders, Indigenous values and the public. Establishing a unified purpose cultivates a sense of community ownership, thereby garnering increased support for park projects.

Integrate Parks with Streetscapes, Trails & Communities:

21. Ensure visual integration of park features, such as trees and flower beds, into streetscapes to incorporate the elements with their surroundings, resulting in a more coherent environment.
22. Extend existing trails and construct new sidewalks, bike lanes or shared-use paths to promote active transportation and enhance park accessibility for pedestrians, cyclists, and joggers.

Optimize Park Opportunities & Usage:

23. Design spaces for different activities based on the seasons, maximizing outdoor pursuits opportunities for the community.

For example, an open field could double as a soccer field in the summer and an ice rink in the winter. Shelters or pavilions could host fitness classes throughout the year. Collaboration with local sports clubs or organizations to provide winter sports programs and rentals can help expand the park's appeal to a broader audience.

24. Round out park bookings and usage into shoulder seasons and look for winter programming opportunities.

25. Ensure staff resources are allocated to support for operation and maintenance of parks and assets.

Support Equity & Inclusion Across Diverse Communities:

26. Actively engage a diverse array of community members in the planning and design process to guarantee that the park aligns with the requirements and cultural inclinations of its potential users.

27. Comply with the AODA, Built Environment Legislation and CSA-Z614:20 Children Playground and equipment safety standards to ensure community members can access parks safely.

Addressing Resiliency and Sustainability Climate Change:

28. Conduct invasive species management across parkland and other County-owned assets and restore impacted areas.

29. Improve neglected or degraded spaces through restoration of retired extraction areas, creek banks, forests, slopes, wildlife habitat, grassland habitat, wetlands, and riparian areas.

30. Mitigate flood risks by restoring and enhancing wetlands through partnerships with Indigenous & Community Environmental Partners.

31. Continue to improve river access points and dilapidated park infrastructure while considering ecological management practices in park redesigns and master plans.

32. Increase biodiversity and public awareness of environmental practices, and improve infiltration through retiring mown areas, naturalizing spaces, enhancing breeding bird habitats and increasing or creating pollinator habitats in alignment with the County's "Bee City" designation and initiatives.

33. Improve the County's Forest through the creation and implementation of the Community Forest Strategy and Technical Tree Guide.

34. Prioritize energy conservation and reducing carbon emissions through practices such as transitioning to clean energy and increasing the use of LED lighting in parks (retrofits and new builds), reducing mown areas and using green infrastructure and equipment.

35. Provide electric vehicle charging stations in strategically selected parks such as Destination Parks. See page 54.

36. Enhance education through digital communication and signage on climate change and sustainability.

37. Improve outreach and permissions through by-laws for naturalized boulevards, ecological restoration on privately-owned lands, and tree planting opportunities for private landowners via Brant Grow Green, Public Tree subsidization programs and other incentives.

Section 2: Our Parks, Foundation for the Future



Section 2: Our Parks, Foundation for the Future

Formulation of the Parks Plan

The development of the 2026 Parks Master Plan incorporated several key inputs including comprehensive background studies, evaluation of population forecasts, and needs assessments.

The graphic below illustrates the process for developing this plan:

Background Study & Research
- Population Forecasting Study
- Parkland Needs Assessment
- Industry Trends

Public Engagement & Consulting
- Residents
- County Staff
- Local Indigenous Representatives
- Community Groups
- Council

Draft Plan Review & Feedback
- Circulate via Engagebrant.ca
- Review recommendations and update plan.

Final Draft Plan and Report

Post final draft report and prepare Council Report.

Final Plan Presentation
- Recommendations
- Implementation Plan
- Presentation to Council Members

Publication of the Parks Master Plan



Burford Optimist Skate Park, Burford, ON

To ensure alignment with broader County planning objectives, this Parks Master Plan considers and incorporates policies and recommendations from other relevant County of Brant plans, as summarized below.

Several legislative changes occurred between 2019 and 2024 related to development through Bill 108, 197 and 23. These changes aimed to make fees and charges imposed on development more predictable, while maintaining municipalities' ability to fund growth-related capital infrastructure and increase housing supply in Ontario through a wide-reaching slate of legislative and regulatory changes across Ontario.

These changes influence the County's financial framework for the acquisition and development of parkland. Few amendments to the parkland dedication framework were enacted.

The County of Brant, 2023 Official Plan

On May 30, 2023, the County of Brant Council approved By-Law 61-23 to adopt the County's New Official Plan -*A Simply Grand Plan* (2023). The New Official Plan was approved by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing on October 18th, 2024.

The County of Brant 2023 Official Plan provides detailed policies and criteria to support the creation of healthy and complete communities and guide development in the County of Brant. The Parks and Open Space designation recognizes these spaces as valuable resources contributing to the physical and mental well-being of the County. They provide a comprehensive and connected system of parks, multi-use pathways, trails, and other recreational uses.

Under the New Official Plan, development applications must demonstrate how they will meet the objectives of complete communities. This includes ensuring accessibility and equity, promoting a diverse mix of land uses, enhancing social equity and overall quality of life, and providing vibrant, connected public and green spaces. Developments should also feature a complementary, compact, and creative built form that supports sustainable and inclusive growth.

Development applications are expected to include public parks within 400 metres of new residential areas, with linked trailways to promote active transportation. Where parks are constructed as part of a development, they must meet County standards, include public consultation, and be transferred to County ownership upon completion. Parkland dedication will continue to follow the provisions of the Planning Act and the County's Parkland Dedication By-Law, ensuring equitable access and sustainable growth of the park system. In the County, Park development must achieve a minimum of ten (10) square metres of green space per resident and a public park or facility within 400 metres for residents.

Public parks and recreation facilities in the County of Brant should be designed to serve as inclusive, accessible focal points for neighbourhoods. These spaces incorporate naturalized areas, green spaces, and linkages to trails and open spaces, ensuring connectivity and environmental stewardship. River access is considered an integral component of the park system, supporting opportunities for public enjoyment of shorelines. Parks are to be planned to accommodate individuals of all ages, abilities, and cultural backgrounds, offering a full range of recreational settings, from built facilities to natural landscapes. Parks may host accessory commercial activities and special events that complement their primary recreational function.

The Official Plan reinforces the County's commitment to sustainability and climate resilience by expanding greenspaces and green infrastructure. It prioritizes a connected system of parks, natural heritage areas, and open spaces to promote accessibility and environmental stewardship.

To achieve this, the County will use its authority under applicable legislation to acquire land through methods such as voluntary sales, donations, land trusts, and development conditions. Partnerships and land stewardship initiatives will further support these goals.

Parkland Dedication

The Planning Act gives the authority to municipalities to require land for parks and recreational purposes at the time of development. This requires any land development application to transfer a predetermined amount of parkland to the County at no cost. The amount of parkland that can be requested is limited by the Planning Act and varies depending upon the proposed uses. Alternatively, the County may require payment of the cash value of the land, referred to as cash-in-lieu of parkland (CIL) where land dedication on the site is impractical or where the County can make better use of the money to acquire parkland or improve the capacity of existing parks and recreation facilities elsewhere in the community.

The County of Brant 2023 Official Plan supports Parkland dedication in accordance with the provisions of the Planning Act and the County of Brant's Parkland Dedication By-law. The Official Plan provides direction on parkland dedication specifically as to which lands may be dedicated as parkland and the circumstances in which Cash-in-Lieu (CIL) may be required:

- The County shall secure the maximum benefit, as per the Planning Act, for Parkland Dedication and Facilities, Services and Matters through the

Community Planning Permit System.

- The County's Parkland Dedication By-Law may establish uses in which Parkland Dedication shall be reduced or waived by the County.
- Cash-in-lieu may be required for circumstances such as unsuitability of the land, impracticality for development, the area is already serviced by an adequate provision of parks, or the land is unusable due to barriers such as any natural hazards, stormwater management facilities or roadways. Conveyed land representative of the above listed conditions shall not be considered part of the Parkland Dedication in accordance with the Planning Act and the County's Parkland Dedication By-Law.

In terms of the alternative rate, the County may by by-law in accordance with the Planning Act, require that lands be conveyed to the County for park or other recreational purposes at the maximum rate determined by the Planning Act or a lesser rate established by the County.

The County of Brant has adopted a Parkland Dedication By-Law in 2021 that is summarized below:

- Five per cent (5%) of the land area for any other development or redevelopment including residential uses or approved per lot rate for Cash-in-Lieu.
- Two per cent (2%) of the land area to be developed or redeveloped for commercial or industrial purposes; and
- Where CIL is taken instead of land, the money can be spent only for the acquisition of land to be used for park or other public recreational purposes, including the erection, improvement, or repair of buildings and the acquisition of machinery for park or other public recreational purposes.

Recreation Master Plan (2017)

The Parks Master Plan will serve as a companion document to the Recreation Master Plan until it is updated. The Recreation Master Plan serves as a basis to plan, prioritize, and build community capacity for future parks and recreation facilities, programs and services. The plan identifies what services are required, where they should be provided and at what levels of quality, and timing and priority of their development in the next 10-15 years, as the Park Master Plan represents information currently known.

The Recreation Master Plan provides policies to the direction of parks and

recreation services delivery policies through Section 3. Subsection 3.17 Parks, Open Space and Trails Policies speaks to the acquisition of parkland, the design, operations and management of parks that will serve to inform the Parks Master Plan. Section 4 outlines specific initiatives for parks and recreation, while Section 5 outlines implementation methods.

Park-specific recommendations within the Recreation Master Plan include:

- Additional parkland has or will be acquired through mandatory land dedications under the Planning Act, as a requirement of new developments.
- Additional parkland developments are planned in new residential areas in Paris and St. George, while on-going playground maintenance, renewal and replacement will continue to be required to manage these assets and address accessibility and safety standards.
- A need for flexible indoor and outdoor spaces and supporting facilities with capacity for a range of special events has been identified to support continued growth in community events and tourism.
- Consideration should be given to opportunities to further develop unorganized and extreme sport recreation opportunities (e.g. BMX, mountain biking) at Destination or Community Park locations, and/or as part of the trail system.
- County-owned natural areas and acquisition of additional natural areas provide opportunities to formalize informal and unauthorized trails and expand the overall trail offering in Brant.

Provincial Planning Statement, 2024

The Parks Master Plan is a supporting document to the County's Official Plan, which must be consistent with the Provincial Planning Statement (PPS) and other applicable legislation. The PPS provides municipalities with direction in respect to public spaces, recreation, and trails, facilities and open space that support health, active and inclusive communities.

This includes planning and providing for a full range and equitable distribution of publicly accessible built and natural settings for recreation, including facilities, parklands, public spaces, and open space areas, trails and linkages and where practical, water-based resources. Public access to shorelines, like to the Grand River, is specifically promoted as part of healthy, active and inclusive communities.

The PPS also provides direction on the protection of natural areas and the natural heritage system for the long-term.

Section 3: Demographics



Jay Wells Park Paris, ON

Section 3: Demographics

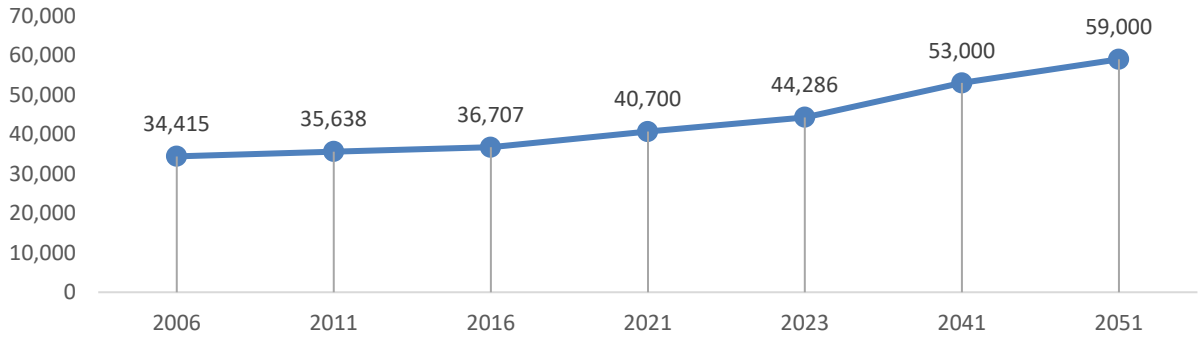
Population Development

The population of the County continues to grow and as of 2021 it was 40,700; Stats Canada estimated the population for Brant to be 42,800 in 2024. The County's population is projected to grow to reach 59,000 by 2051. The County has an annual anticipated growth rate of 1.2% as per the Municipal Comprehensive Review (MCR).

Growth and development within the County of Brant will be planned and phased in a manner to support the creation of complete communities, providing a range of housing and employment opportunities. To support these communities, a majority of the County's growth will be directed to settlement areas that have existing or planned municipal water and sewage servicing. The County's fully serviced settlement areas consist of Paris, St. George, and Cainsville. Paris and St. George were included in the County's land needs assessment and are intended to accommodate most of the future residential and employment growth to 2051. Cainsville is subject to the Cainsville Land Use Strategy and is intended to largely accommodate employment growth.

The 2023 MCR states that Paris is anticipated to accommodate 55% of the County's population growth, followed by St. George at 22%. All other settlement areas are anticipated to accommodate a combined 19% of growth, with the remaining areas accommodating 4% of growth. The expected population growth will put more demand on local parks and challenge the Community Services Department to acquire sufficient parkland and develop amenities to meet demand.

Figure 1: County of Brant Census Recorded Population, 2006-2021, and projected population.



The demographic profile of the County offers insights into the community's current, potential, and future park needs by utilizing projections to guide parks provision, services, and programming.

The Parks Master Plan needs to account for the County's:

- Growing population and subsequent parkland per capita requirements;
- Aging population and the specific needs of older community residents; &
- Demand for parks and open space due to the new and future residential infill in the municipally serviced areas and growth of privately serviced or under servicing review areas.

Forecasted Population Analysis

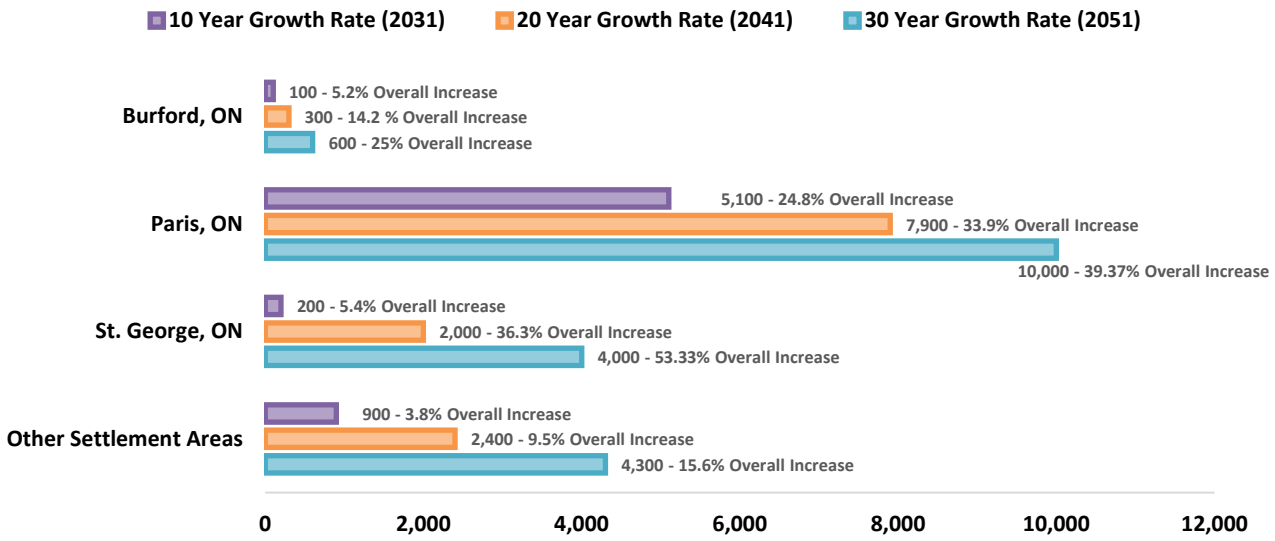
Growth forecasts show that the County of Brant population will grow from the Stats Canada Census report of 40,700 and to reach 46,700 by 2031 and 59,000 by 2051. Table 1 illustrates the distribution of the County's population and forecasted growth by service area.

Table 1: Forecasted Population Growth by Area Boundaries, 2021-2051

Service Areas	2021 Census Estimate	2031 Estimate	2041 Estimate	2051 Estimate
Burford, ON	1,800	1,900	2,100	2,400
Paris, ON	15,400	20,500	23,300	25,400
St. George, ON	3,500	3,700	5,500	7,500
Other areas in the County	20,000	20,800	22,100	23,700
Total	40,700	46,900	53,000	59,000

Overall, the data projected indicates that Paris will have the most substantial population growth over both the 10-year and 30-year periods, growing 24.8% between 2021 and 2031. The population of St. George will more than double (53.3%) during the 30-year window, with a 30% increase projected for the 10-year period between 2031 - 2041. As Burford is not a fully serviced settlement area, Burford population increases will be at a more moderate rate. Other areas in the County will experience minimal population variation between now and 2051.

Figure 2: Forecasted Population Growth by Area Boundaries, 2021-2051



Parks for All Ages

The median age in the County of Brant stood at 44 years of age (Source, 2021 Stats Canada Census), a figure slightly higher than the Province's median age of 41.3.

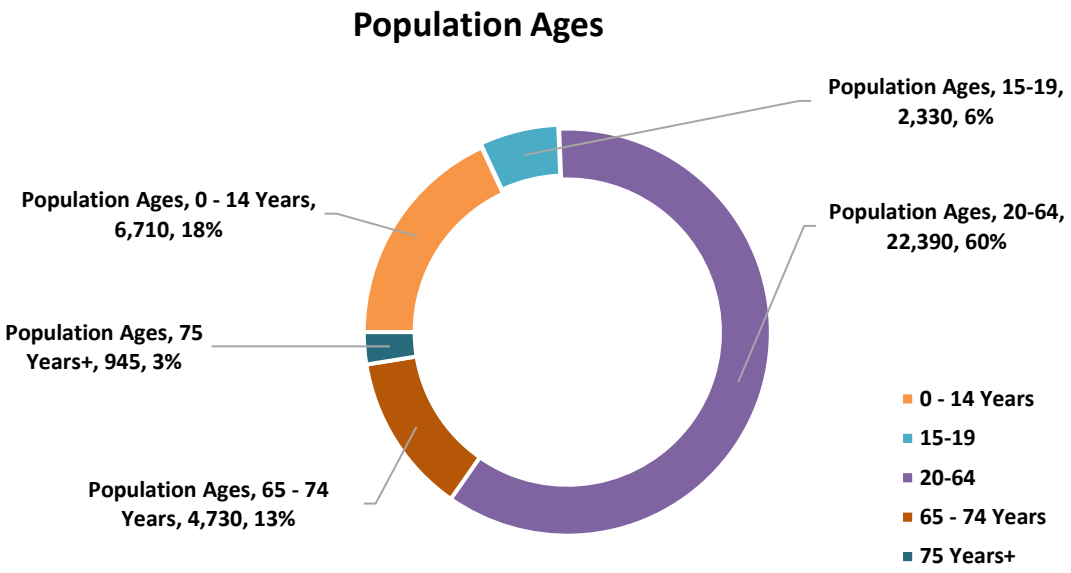
The demographic distribution in the County reveals the youth demographic, ages 15-19, encompasses 2,330 residents, accounting for 5.9% of the total population, similar to the Provincial average at 5.6%. Meanwhile, children falling within the age range of 0-14 amount to 6,710 residents, making up 17% of the overall population, slightly higher than the Provincial average of 16%.

Throughout the timeframe outlined in this Plan, there is expected to be an increase of **3,390 children** in the age category 0-14, impacting programs and facilities needed. For example, in 2024 there were **1,461 camp booking spaces** available, but by 2051 **320 more spaces per year** will be needed to support the **22%** participation rate.

The largest segment of the population, totaling 24,440 residents (60%), falls within the young adult and adult age bracket of 20-64 years. The older adult population in the County consists of approximately 8,045 residents, making up around 20% of the total population.

It is anticipated that the 75+ population group will have the fastest growth rate across the County. By 2051, the County will have 13,555 more seniors.

Figure 3: Overall breakdown of the 2021 Census Population for the County of Brant



The desire to "age in place" is a common trend, people are looking to stay at home and seek recreation in their familiar surroundings. This has several implications on parks planning. Park design should consider amenities to serve the 75+ age group and provide greater accessibility features, as well as adapt programming suited for an aging population.

The County of Brant also anticipates the need to accommodate a growing share of young adults and new families seeking competitively priced home ownership and rental opportunities. The Parks Master Plan must anticipate the needs of future residents in the County and ensure park access is equitable countywide.

The Parks Master Plan aims to ensure all the County's parks provide a wide array of park experiences for all ages and abilities. Park design shall consider amenities that suit the needs of both young families and opportunities for youth recreation. Many parks are geared towards the younger child, but there is also a desire for teens, younger adults, and seniors to be accommodated.

Features that may attract and accommodate teens include:

- Wi-Fi, interactive lighting and public art;
- Play spaces for older children/adults such as informal lawns for pickup games;
- Elements that facilitate spontaneous play; and
- Various events and programming to attract this often-missed demographic.

This plan capitalizes on opportunities to ensure existing and future parks are flexible spaces that respond easily to the changing needs of park users and the growing community.

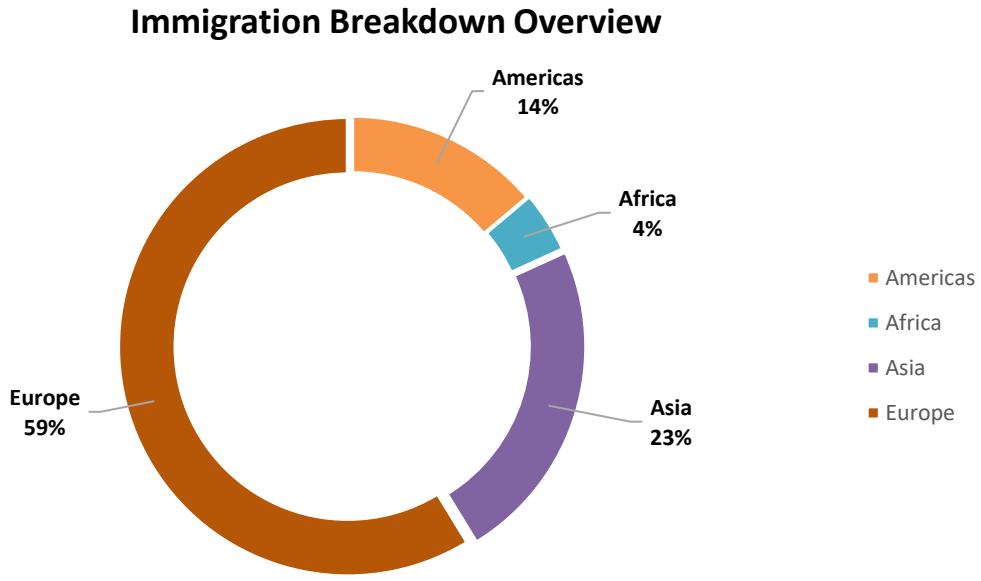
Cultural Diversity

Family composition of differing cultures impacts the way members may interact with park spaces, which may lead to lower or higher volumes of users in parks. Building resiliency and flexibility in parks is important to accommodate the various needs of communities. This includes the creation of places for larger gatherings or group celebrations. The provision of flexible playing fields is necessary to accommodate a variety of sports and activities.

Based on the census data, 10.7% of the County's population have immigrated from other countries. The population base shows that diversity has increased by 1.1% since 2016. Immigration and the cultural diversity of communities may influence how the park system is used. The 2021 census data indicates that 92.6% of the County's residents speak English while other prominent languages spoken in the County are Slavic (1.4%) and Dutch (1.1%). However, other reported spoken languages in the County are Polish, Punjabi, Portuguese, Italian, Spanish, Hungarian, Urdu and French.

The population base in Brant is diversifying and is summarized by world region in the figure below.

Figure 4: 2021 Census: Immigration Breakdown



Brant is significantly less diverse than the larger provincial average. As per Census Canada's 2021 survey, only 6.7% of the County's population identify as a visible minority compared to the 34% in Ontario. However, Brant continues to become increasingly diverse. Canada's 2016 Census survey showed 2.2% of the County's population to be a visible minority, and this number is anticipated to continue to grow. Most who identify as a visible minority live in Paris or the rural areas with 4% and 2.4%, respectively. Visible minority groups with the largest concentrations are South Asian (2.6%) and Black (1.7%). Of note, 2.4% of the County's population identifies as Indigenous.

To help immigrants nurture their sense of place and belonging, it is essential to consider the different needs and preferences of newcomers, such as outdoor spaces to practice cultural activities and celebrations, specific sports, and different types of leisure. Potential barriers to recreation or park use include unfamiliarity with the climate, lack of specialized equipment, and/or language barriers. Communication strategies to overcome these barriers need to be implemented to enable residents to access and enjoy the numerous park experiences throughout the County.

Key Action recommendations for the following sections below:

Key Action: Recommendations

22. Income Equity

- The County should ensure parks, trails and open spaces are available in the various communities of Brant ensuring access is equitable in urban and rural areas.

23. Indigenous Reconciliation

- Conduct early and ongoing meaningful engagement with and involvement of Indigenous Communities, consisting of the Six Nations of the Grand River and Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, in implementation of parks and naturalization projects.

- Respect Treaty rights, including the ongoing stewardship of the lands, waters, and resources, and title to the waters, beds of water and floodplains throughout the County.

- Commit to gain an understanding and incorporate Indigenous history through research conducted as part of archaeological assessments in collaboration with Six Nations of the Grand River and Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation.

- Integrate and honour Indigenous values, knowledge and cultures through relationship building and engagement. Through the Plan, the County commits to engage with Indigenous Nations, consisting of the Six Nations of the Grand River & Mississaugas of the

Credit First Nation and incorporating recommendations within parks spaces, when practical and respectful.

- Preserve Indigenous cultural and built heritage, including places and stories significant to First Nations, to ensure that the County remains an enjoyable place to live and reflects our commitment to reconciliation. The County shall work together with Indigenous Nations when planning to ensure the long-term preservation of areas which have significant cultural meaning and contribute to the ancestral story of Indigenous Communities.

- Recognize and foster the cultural, historical and environmental significance of the Grand River and its tributaries.

- Acknowledge the importance of protecting our water resources, green spaces, natural areas and wildlife to the health and vitality of Indigenous culture and heritage. Protecting groundwater and surface water, as the Grand River watershed is essential to supplying clean drinking water to humans, plants and animals needed to substance Indigenous Communities.

Examples of park improvements that recognize Traditional Knowledge, cultural activities, traditional practices and the significant role of land resources of Indigenous Nations may be to include Indigenous placemaking, environmental stewardship through enhancement plantings, interpretative signage, naming conventions, and public art. Protecting and preserving land and improving habitats are important aspects of engagement efforts.

24. Population Growth

- Develop service standards for existing operations and fund both capital and operating budgets to maintain service standards.

25. Aging Population

- Create new amenities and revitalize existing park amenities to accommodate age-friendly park experiences.

26. Diversity

- Create opportunities for diverse gatherings and small events in parks.

- Build park amenities to meet emerging park and recreation trends of the changing community.

27. Health & Wellness

- Promote access to amenities and activities in parks through a connected and walkable park system with a variety of equipment.

28. Active Transportation

- Encourage active transportation to a connected park and trail system through transportation infrastructure, trail design, bike parking, e-bike charging infrastructure and other cycling amenities.

29. Volunteerism

- Promote volunteer opportunities through newsletters, print and digital media, and the County website.
- Ensure training opportunities are available through the County and with partners.
- Create partnerships with County interest groups such as Brant Land Trust, Brant for Nature, Brant Cycling Club, Brant Waterways Foundation, and Ducks Unlimited to assist as appropriate with project development, construction, funding applications and cross-promotion of initiatives.

Income Equity

Median individual and household incomes are higher in the County of Brant than the Ontario average. As of 2020, the median household income in the County of Brant was $106,000, and the median individual income was $45,600. The annual growth rate of the average household income has decreased over the past five years relative to the previous decade but has maintained a rate higher than the rest of the province. At the same time, the percentage of low-income individuals has also decreased by 1.5% from 2015 to 2020.

A trend the County of Brant and the rest of the province has seen is that average household income growth has not kept pace with rising housing costs. This means income disparity may result in a barrier to participation for families throughout the County.



Art, Culture & Heritage Event at Lion's Park, Paris, ON

Indigenous Reconciliation

Integrating strategies and practices into municipal governance systems and facilitating meaningful relationships and partnerships with Indigenous Communities, that being the Six Nations of the Grand River and Mississaugas of the Credit First Nations, is one way the County can guide the responsibility we have to respect historical Treaties. The County shall implement this Plan in a manner that is consistent with the recognition and affirmation of existing Aboriginal and Treaty rights in section 35 of the Constitution Act, including the duty to consult and accommodate Indigenous Communities, and the United Nations Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The County of Brant has an opportunity to enhance its park system by acknowledging and celebrating the area's diverse historical and cultural heritage. This approach will contribute to reconciliation efforts and help establish a strong connection to the land for all community members. By incorporating Indigenous history through research and review of archaeological assessments, this gives the County the opportunity to include interpretive information within parks and on trails.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) lays out calls to action to provide practical steps for Canadians to take towards reconciliation. Municipalities have the responsibility to support and promote reconciliation work directly within their mandates. The County will maintain mutually respectful relationships with Indigenous Nations through engagement and implementation of recommendations in park planning.

Park planning and programming initiatives may include:

- Use of green spaces by Indigenous Peoples to facilitate traditional Indigenous Knowledge exchange between Indigenous elders, youth, and future ancestors. This may involve activities such as storytelling walks, traditional skills demonstrations, and/or educational initiatives.
- Utilizing native plants that hold cultural significance to local Indigenous communities, this may include decorative or Medicine gardens.

- Commissioning art installations in parks from Indigenous artists.
- Developing interpretive signage to convey Indigenous stories while incorporating visual representations and text in Indigenous languages.
- Integration of accessible audio recordings via QR codes.

The County of Brant will strive to implement these measures and to incorporate Indigenous viewpoints into their park planning and development of open spaces. These initiatives positively contribute to establishing a more comprehensive and inclusive environment for all inhabitants and will cultivate a deeper comprehension and admiration for the abundant cultural legacy of the region.

Sector Trends

This section provides a review of emerging demographic and general participation trends impacting parks from other municipalities across Ontario. These trends are considered throughout the development of the Parks Master Plan with local implications.



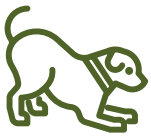
4 Day work week & Flexible work spaces
(Wi-Fi in Parks)



Energy initiatives
(Solar lighting, lighting retrofits, integration of charging stations)



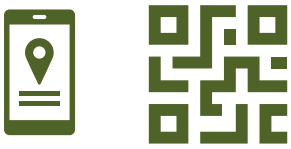
Cultural Asset Diversification
(Cricket Pitches)



Dog Ownerships
(Increasing demand for Dog Parks)



Artificial Intelligence
(Tailoring experiences based on visitor preferences)



Using Smart Phones Apps to enhance park experiences
(Pokemon Go, Seek by iNaturalist, What 3 words, QR Codes)



New Technology
(Autonomous Mowers, Robotic Field painting equipment)



Creation of Instagram worthy spots in Parks
(Penman's Dam lighting, Bridges, Floral displays, Heritage Trees, River access)



Focus on a Healthy Lifestyle
(Trail development, fitness opportunities)



Alcohol in select Parks
(Can be permitted by the AGCO)



Climate Resiliency & Microclimates
(Bioswales, rain gardens, porous paving/concrete, shade structures)



Environmental Awareness & Sustainability
(Forest Schools, Trail Clean-up, LED Lighting Retrofits)

Population Growth

The County's population grew significantly with a 10.8% increase from 2016-2021, and there is forecasted growth of an additional 1.2% each year to 2051. This growth heightens the demand for new parks and may strain existing services and infrastructure.

To meet the forecasted population growth each year, the County will evaluate the following components:



New Park Development



Capital & Operating Budgets



Demand

Aging Population

The data highlights that the County of Brant's population is aging. This trend impacts how people experience and use park spaces: (1) there are more healthy, physically active, and social adults wishing to remain active as they age; (2) persons managing chronic illness, disease and/or old age that are seeking low impact, therapeutic and rehabilitative programs; and (3) growing interest in non-traditional arts, culture and experiential activities.

Beyond the aging population, other trends impact how different generations use park spaces. A high number of Generation Z residents (born between 1997-2012) and Millennials (1981-1995) are renting, while Baby Boomers (1946-1964) are down-sizing and may be living in multi-unit dwellings without backyard spaces or access to parks for recreation. Travel is a growing priority for Generation Z and Millennials, so providing affordable local amenities remains a high priority for residents and visitors. Baby Boomers prefer in-person gatherings so providing amenities such as dog parks, trails, and recreation facilities close to home remain important aspects to plan for.

Aging Population Trends

- Boomers are retiring, and active older adults are retiring earlier.
- 85 + Population "Eldertainment" – use of toys/games and technology to stimulate the brain.

As the County's population age increases, items below can be looked at to ensure there is accommodation for current and future park experiences:



New Amenities



Being Active



Gatherings

Canada's population is becoming more diverse, and Brant is anticipated to diversify alongside the rest of the country. The influx of new cultures, traditions and experiences introduces the desire for new and emerging activities, a demand for support facilities, and a need for community development interventions such as settlement services and language training to help newcomers adapt and connect with local residents and recreation providers. Through public engagement, it was found that the community has a desire for flexible and diverse park amenities such as cricket, disc golf, or BMX bike parks. Parks require the ability to provide for a variety of needs, ensure these needs can co-exist safely, and be flexible to in adapting future needs.

To ensure that these needs are met the County will adapt based on the future needs of the following:



New Communities



Diverse Amenities



Changing Trends

Health & Wellness

A holistic and multi-faceted approach to health and wellbeing, including health promotion, socialization, mindfulness and management of stress and anxiety, is significantly influencing active living. Section 1.6 of the County's New Official Plan outlines the County's desire to build healthy and complete communities. Through this, policies of the New Official Plan encourage a comprehensive public open space system to meet the health and wellness needs of the community to 2051.

As communities grow across the County, and to ensure that there is a good approach for the health and well-being of individuals, the County will implement the following:



Healthy Communities



Health Promotion & Awareness



Connection of Amenities

Active Transportation

Active transportation is a core requirement of complete communities. Human-powered modes of travel undertaken for utilitarian (day-to-day) purposes such as cycling, walking or skateboarding are common forms of active transportation. Examples of active transportation infrastructure facilities and amenities include dedicated cycling facilities, use signage and navigation assistance.

Through the policies of the Official Plan, the County is committed to creating integrated transportation systems that support connected and healthy lifestyles through active transportation.



Trail Connectivity



Cycling Routes Connectivity



Connection to Destinations

Volunteerism

Volunteer participation has declined in the County, particularly in long-term volunteering. This trend may stem from the lack of incentives for engaging in community activities or events, which potentially dissuade individuals from involvement. Generally, young adults exhibit higher propensities for short-term volunteer work compared to older adults; however, these trends can vary across different locations.

To increase the overall participation in the County, the following will take place:



Volunteer Incentives





Promotion & Awareness



New Community Events

A Volunteer Policy framework has recently been developed to enable residents to participate in various activities such as tree planting, festivals and sporting events. The policy will ensure volunteers are screened and trained which provides valuable experience that will enhance individual competencies and bolster community connections.

Parks Gap Assessment & Analysis

The County of Brant foresees a substantial rise in population, resulting in a corresponding need for park space to accommodate various recreational activities to maintain appropriate service levels. Based on the work completed, new and existing residents are anticipated to desire areas for walking, jogging, biking, engaging in sports, and enjoying picnics with friends and family. It is imperative to anticipate these demands through a Parks Gaps Analysis to proactively devise a sustainable plan for the County's parks and recreation infrastructure.

The expanding population will not only necessitate more green space but also the demand for park facilities. Playgrounds for children, swimming pools for aquatic activities and summer leisure, and community centres offering programs and events will become increasingly essential. These amenities contribute to fostering a sense of community, promoting physical and mental well-being, and providing opportunities for social interaction across all age groups.

Park Gap Analysis Recommendations:

30. Create Destination Parks:

Destination Parks provide a more extensive array of amenities in comparison to neighborhood and community parks. Currently there are a total of 5 Destination Parks within the County of Brant, and it is anticipated that at least two new destination park will be constructed in Paris, and one in Burford by 2051. Large scale events take place at such locations because of the overall size and space available.

Key Differences in Amenities

1. **Diverse Recreational Facilities:** Destination Parks typically feature specialized facilities such as disc golf courses, multiple sport courts, numerous sports fields often utilized for tournaments, playgrounds, picnic areas, water play and supporting amenities such as washrooms. These amenities cater to a wide spectrum of interests and skill levels, thereby attracting visitors from various regions.

2. **Extensive Trail Systems:** Destination Parks often boast extensive trail networks designed for hiking, biking, and potentially horseback riding, which provide numerous opportunities for outdoor recreation and appreciation of nature.

3. **Distribution of Amenities:** Destination Parks have a wider range of amenities compared to neighbourhood and community parks. As such, Destination Parks may be better equipped to serve a broader range of recreational needs including large scale events.

31. Improving Accessibility:

Key Considerations:

1. Better pathway connections to park amenities such as playgrounds, sport courts and playing fields.

2. Ensure Playgrounds meet or exceed CSA standards.

3. Add specific playgrounds components for those who have physical disabilities and including items for sensory stimulation.

4. Include more solid resilient surfacing such as poured-in-place rubber, rubber mats, tiles or artificial grass as well as good connectivity throughout the park.

5. Provision for accessible washrooms for active parks that have multiple amenities and operate more programing for longer periods of time. Portable washroom units are usually placed in active areas with shorter playing seasons.

32. Install Fitness Equipment:

The inclusion of outdoor fitness equipment presents residents with a means to partake in regular exercise.

Key Considerations:

1. **Equipment Age and Condition:**

- Evaluate the age of existing equipment.
- Assess the condition of equipment, including wear and tear, rust, and missing parts.
- Consider the impact of weather conditions on equipment durability.

2. **Equipment Variety:**

- Determine the range of exercises that current equipment supports.
- Identify potential gaps in equipment types, such as lack of options for strength training, cardio, or flexibility.
- Consider the needs of population groups and ensure equipment is procured.

3. **Equipment Placement and Accessibility:**

- Evaluate the placement of equipment in relation to other park amenities and pathways.
- Ensure equipment is accessible to people of all abilities, including those with mobility impairments.
- Consider factors like shade, proximity to water fountains, and potential hazards.

33. Design Playgrounds:

Additional age specific and more diverse playground elements are needed at some parks. New elements such as sensory areas and communication boards for non-verbal participants can provide safe and stimulating play experiences for children across various age groups and abilities.

34. Build Sport Fields/Courts:

Multi-purpose sports fields accommodate a range of sports, including soccer, baseball, basketball, cricket, tennis, pickleball etc., thus promoting physical activity and social interaction.

Key Considerations:

1. **Participation Rates:** Assess current participation rates in various sports to gauge existing demand.

2. **Population Growth:** Analyze current and projected population trends to determine future demand.

3. **Location:** Consider proximity to residential areas, schools, and other community facilities.

4. **Size and Configuration:** Determine the optimal size and configuration of fields to accommodate various sports and activities.

5. **Safety Features:** Incorporate safety features such as fencing, protective netting, and first-aid stations.

35. Establish Picnic Areas:

Picnic Areas are Outdoor spaces designed to provide a comfortable and functional environment for a variety of recreational and social activities. Designed with comfort and functionality in mind, these spaces typically feature:

Durable Seating and Tables: Perfect for family gatherings, friend outings, and community events.

Access to Hydro (where available): Convenient for powering cooking equipment, lighting, or other devices.

Access to Water: Ensuring easy access to potable water for drinking and cleaning.

Shade Structures: Providing protection from the sun and light rain, allowing for extended use throughout the day.

These amenities foster a relaxed atmosphere, encouraging socialization and outdoor enjoyment. Whether it is a casual picnic, a family reunion, or a community event, picnic areas offer a versatile space for relaxation and connection.

36. Park Development & Improvements

1. **Expand Access to Green Spaces:**

- **Create New Parks:** Identify underutilized land, neighbourhoods with gaps in infrastructure or areas with high population density to develop new parks and green spaces.

- **Enhance Existing Parks:** Upgrade existing parks with new features like playgrounds, walking trails, and picnic areas.

- **Preserve Natural Areas:** Protect natural areas and wildlife habitats through conservation efforts and land acquisition.

2. **Improve Park Amenities:**

- **Enhance Lighting:** Improve lighting in parks to extend usage hours and enhance safety.

- **Update and Add Signage:** Refurbish and add new park and trail signage to improve wayfinding and local knowledge.

- **Provide More Shade:** Plant more trees in strategic locations where people typically gather and observe activities in parks. Include shaded picnic tables and shelters in new and existing parks where appropriate.

- **Access to Washrooms:** Provide washroom facilities at new Community Parks and parks used for sports activities with paid rentals.

3. **Consider the Unique Needs of Rural Communities:**

- **Transportation Options:** Promote public transportation (Brant Transit) as an affordable and accessible way to travel parks, especially for those without personal vehicles.

- **Consider Rural Aesthetics:** Design parks that blend seamlessly with the natural environment and that respect local culture and heritage.

- **Offer Opportunities for Self-Sufficiency**: Incorporate features like community gardens, fruit orchards, and beekeeping areas.

4. **Utilize Technology to Enhance Park Experiences:**

- **Install Wi-Fi:** Provide free Wi-Fi in park areas to encourage digital literacy and remote work.

- **Use Mobile Apps:** Develop mobile apps to provide information on park amenities, events, and trail maps.

- **Implement Smart Park Technology:** Utilize sensors and data analytics to monitor park usage, optimize maintenance, and improve safety.

37. Climate Actions

Key considerations:

1. **Increase Biodiversity and Restore Natural Areas and Design with Green Infrastructure:**

    - Increase natural areas such as through grasslands, wetlands, the tree canopy cover and other wildlife habitats to improve biodiversity, reduce impacts from extreme weather events and absorb carbon dioxide and mitigate the heat island effect. Include Low Impact Development features in parks such as rain gardens, bioswales and porous paving. Reduce mowing by replacing unutilized grass areas with natural habitats.

2. **Develop Emergency Response Plans:**

    - Prepare for storm damage in parks and trails and be prepared to respond to extreme weather events.

3. **Promote Sustainable Transportation:**

   - Encourage walking, biking, and public transportation (Brant Transit) to reduce emissions.

4. **Convert Parks and Recreation Fleet and Equipment:**

   - Replace aging fleet and equipment with hybrid or electric vehicles, battery-operated and autonomous equipment.

5. **Include Green Energy Infrastructure:**

   - Include solar installations in parks when practical. Install EV charging stations for vehicles and equipment at high-use locations or where required.

38. Construct Splash & Spray Pads

Key Considerations:

1. **Include Splashpads in Community Parks based on Population Density:**

- Consider adding splashpads or spray features to some parks to provide water play opportunities for children in those areas.

Waterplay features offer numerous benefits, including:

- **Physical Activity:** Splashpads encourage active play, promoting physical fitness and healthy development in children.
- **Social Interaction:** These spaces provide opportunities for children to socialize, make friends, and engage in cooperative play.
- **Sensory Stimulation:** The combination of water, sound, and movement offers a rich sensory experience that can be both stimulating and calming.
- **Heat Relief:** Splash and spray features offer a fun and refreshing way to cool down during hot summer months.

39. Access to Washrooms

Washrooms in Parks: Provide washrooms in some parks to improve accessibility and convenience for park users.

Some of the benefits to having these can lead to:

1. **Improved Accessibility and Convenience:**

    - Encourages Longer Stays: Washrooms enable park users to spend more time enjoying the park's amenities without worrying about basic needs.

    - Attracts a Wider Range of Users: Families with young children, seniors, and individuals with health conditions are more likely to visit parks with accessible restroom facilities.

    - Promotes Health and Hygiene: Clean and accessible washrooms contribute to public health by providing a place for proper sanitation.

2. **Enhanced Safety and Security:**

    - Reduce Vandalism: Well-maintained washrooms can help deter vandalism and create a more pleasant environment for all.

    - Provide a Safe Space: Washrooms can offer a safe refuge for individuals who may feel vulnerable or need a place to rest.

3. **Environmental Considerations:**

    - Reduce Litter: Proper sanitation facilities can help reduce the amount of litter and waste in parks.
    - Use of energy efficient fixtures reduces the carbon footprint in parks.
    - Reduce Pollution: Conversion of fossil-fuel equipment to electric and battery-operated equipment will reduce emissions and offer a cleaner environment.

40. Diversify Park Facilities

Tennis/Pickleball Courts in Parks: Explore adding tennis/pickleball courts to a few neighbourhood parks and Destination Parks to cater to the needs of enthusiasts in those areas.

Beach Volleyball Courts at Green Lane Sports Complex: Consider adding more volleyball courts.

Dog Parks: Evaluate the potential for adding dog parks to some urban parks to provide off-leash areas for dogs and their owners.

Bike Parks: Consider creating opportunities for cyclists to experience different types of bike courses in appropriately sized parks. Adding bike/skate parks, singletrack/mountain bike trails to existing or new parks can be a great way to enhance recreational opportunities and attract a broader range of visitors.

Potential Benefits and Considerations:

1. **Community Building:** Park amenities can create a sense of community and bring people together.

2. **Economic Development:** Park amenities can attract visitors to the area, contribute to sports tourism and boost local businesses and the economy.

3. **Health and Well-Being:** Sport activities such as participating in Volleyball can improve physical and mental health. BMX and bike parks can provide a fun and challenging way for people of all ages and abilities to enjoy outdoor activities.

Proper Park Maintenance

As park acreage and usage rises, so does the necessity for proper maintenance. With more individuals enjoying these spaces, ensuring cleanliness, safety, and functionality becomes paramount. This includes regular upkeep of facilities, waste management, and overall maintenance of park grounds as per the standards. Additional staff will need to be added to the Community Services team to address these demands. Such new staff such as arborists, gardeners and operators will need to be funded from the tax base through growth. Specialized training and equipment will also be needed as the park's portfolio expands.

Implementing Solutions to Address the Gaps

The County of Brant possesses a proactive toolkit to address gaps and future demands, which includes:

Land Acquisition:

- Acquiring new parkland through development, purchase, donations, or conservation easements will be crucial in creating new parks in areas identified at a deficient. This may involve exploring underutilized public lands, negotiating with private landowners, accepting land donations from community members or requiring as a condition of a development application.

Developing Existing Parks and Public Realm:

- A key strategy is maximizing the potential of existing parks. Adding amenities such as walking trails, playgrounds, picnic shelters, and sports fields can significantly enhance park functionality and cater to diverse recreational needs.

Increased Property Tax Levies:

- Establishing a stable and justified tax levy for parks and recreation will provide a sustainable, long-term funding source. Public engagement and clear communication about the benefits of investments in parks are crucial for garnering community support.

Grant Opportunities:

- Securing grants from government agencies or private foundations that support park development and green initiatives can provide significant resources.

Strategic User Fees:

- Modest user fees for specific amenities like sports fields can generate additional revenue specifically earmarked for park maintenance and improvement projects.

Partnerships For Progress

- Collaboration is essential. Partnering with non-profit organizations, businesses, and community groups can unlock valuable resources and expertise. Sharing development costs, maintenance responsibilities, and program offerings creates a mutually beneficial situation for all parties involved.

- By implementing these proactive measures, the County of Brant can ensure its parks and recreation infrastructure remains robust and well-equipped to accommodate the needs of a growing population. This commitment to future-proofing Brant County's green spaces guarantees a healthy, vibrant, and active community for generations to come.

Parkland Classifications

Classification	Description
Destination Park	• Serve a distinct County-wide function with unique park amenities and diverse recreational opportunities. • Generally, it is more significant than 10 acres in size and/or where there are essential features. • Used for significant events, celebrations, and tournaments. • Considered a suitable type for parkland dedication.
Community Park	• May include indoor facilities and services. • Between 5-10 acres in size. • Various sport fields and park amenities with picnic and passive use. • Playgrounds. • Considered a suitable type for parkland dedication.
Neighbourhood Park	• Serve a local neighbourhood. • Typically, between 0.5 – 5 acres in size. • May include playgrounds (Jr. & Sr.). • Sport fields for recreational play. • Considered suitable types for parkland dedication.

River Access Point	• Primary functions to provide access to the river for enjoyment, views and environmental protection. • May include boat launch. • Exclusively located on the banks of the Grand River, Nith River or major tributaries. • Often linear in nature. • Although included in the open space fabric, they may be considered as parkland dedication depending on size, location, and site restrictions
Commons & Urban Greens	• Typically, urban and accessible in character with passive uses like seating and gardens. • Community focal points or urban public gathering spaces. • Although included in the open space fabric, they may be considered as parkland dedication depending on size, location, and site restrictions.
Natural Areas	• The primary function is for natural resource management, forest management, or environmental preservation. • May allow passive uses. • May contain trails and/or walkways. • May incorporate site furnishings. • Although included in the open space fabric, they are not considered suitable for parkland dedication.
Other – Streetscapes & Entrance Feature	• Streetscapes, boulevards, roundabouts & entrance features. An example of an entrance feature is gardens, which act as a feature for beautification purposes. • Accessible for public use. • Although included in the open space fabric, they are not considered suitable for parkland dedication.
Other - County Facility Landscaped Areas	• Exterior areas to County buildings maintained by Parks such as: ○ Community Centers (12), Municipal Offices (2), Fire Halls (8), OPP Station, Russell Heights, Airport, Mt. Pleasant, Glen Morris, Harley, Gaukel Memorial Community Centre, Brant Sports Complex, Oakland, Syl Apps, Etc. • To be considered in the parks and open space fabric and may be considered suitable for parkland dedication.

Parkland Provision as of 2024



Playgrounds
1:1,000 per Resident - (Count of 41)



Splash Pads
1:13,500 per Resident - (Count of 3)



Disc Golf
1:40,000 per Residents - (Count of 1)



Baseball Diamond
1:2,260 per Resident - (Count of 18)



Soccer Field
1:2,540 per Resident - (Count of 16)



Cricket Pitch
1:40,000 per Resident - (Count of 1)



Skate Park
1:10,000 per Resident - (Count of 4)



Beach Volleyball Court
1:13,500 per Resident - (Count of 3)



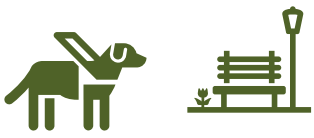
Basketball Court
1:2,700 per Resident - (Count of 15)



Pickleball Court
1:13,500 per Resident - (Count of 3)



Tennis Court
1:10,000 per Resident - (Count of 4)



Dog Leash Area & Dog Park
1:40,000 per Resident - (Count of 1)



Outdoor Fitness Equipment
1:20,000 per Resident - (Count of 2)



Outdoor Swimming Pool
1:40,000 Per Resident – (Count of 1)



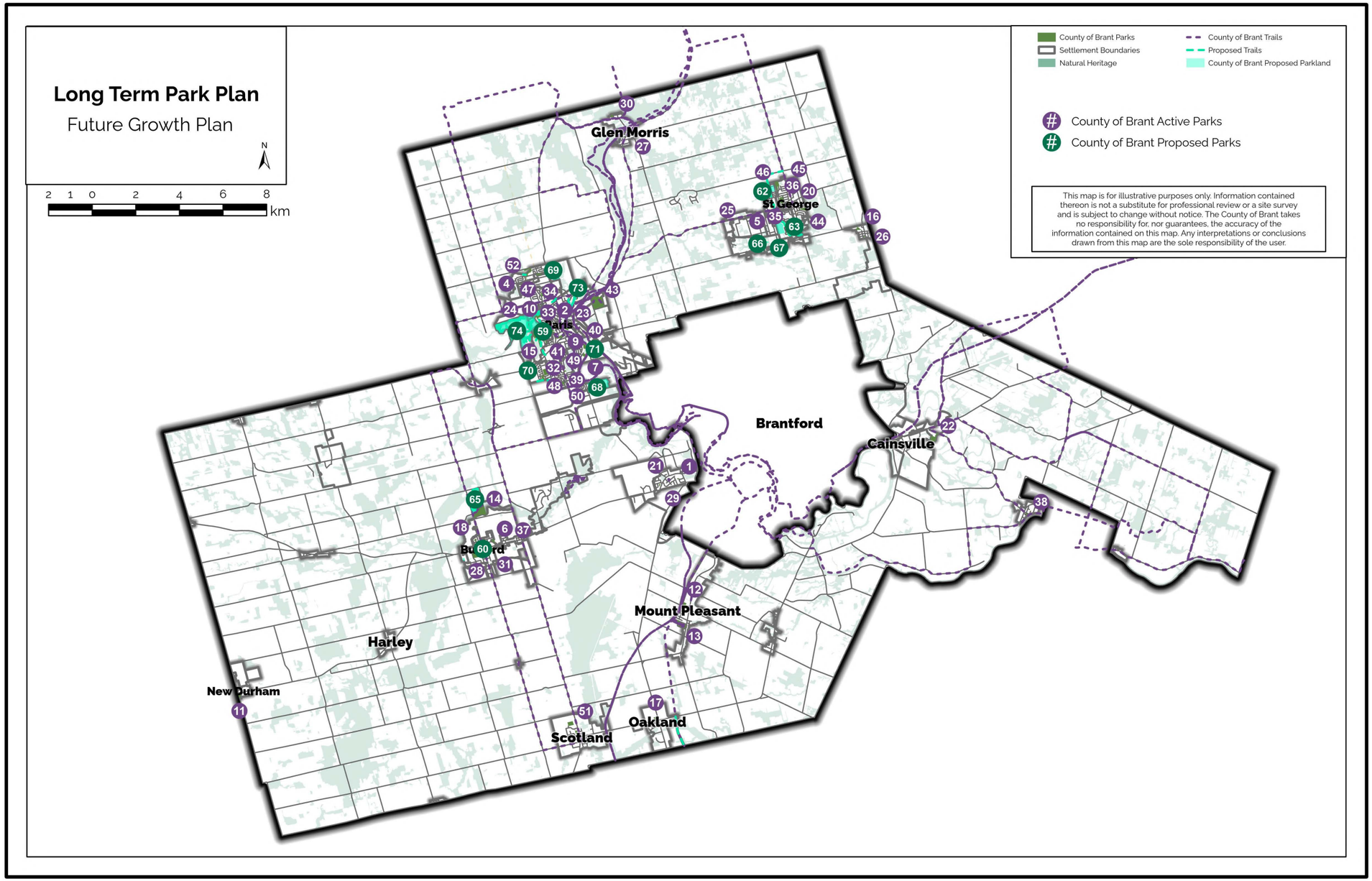
Mix-Use Tennis / Pickleball Court
1:6,780 per Resident - (Count 6)

For more information regarding Municipal Comparators, refer to the Background Study & Service Standards Document.



Outdoor or Artificial Ice Rinks
1:13,500 per Resident – (Count of 3)

Figure 5: Long-Term Park Plan, showcasing parks across the County



1	Axton Park	Active
2	Bemrose Park	Active
3	Forest Drive Park	Active
4	Charlton Park	Active
5	Jury Street Park	Active
6	Kings Ward Park	Active
7	Garden of Hope	Active
8	Penman's Dam Park	Active
9	Cenotaph War Memorial	Active
10	Cobblestone Commons	Active
11	Twin Rivers Stadium	Active
12	Lions Park - Paris	Active
13	Willow Street Park	Active
14	Victoria Park	Active
15	Rest Acres Ridge Park	Active
16	Optimist Park	Active
17	Bean Park	Active
19	Grandville Park	Active
20	Green Lane Sports Complex	Active
21	Rising Park	Active
22	Harrisburg Ball Park	Active
23	New Durham Ball Park	Active
24	Scotland Optimist Park	Active
25	Oakland Community Centre Park	Active
26	Harrisburg Church Park	Active
27	Eric Thomlinson River Access/Wray and Marilyn Cline Park	Active
28	Art Cadman Lions Park	Active
29	Janice Hunt Memorial Park	Active
30	Broadview Park	Active
31	John St. Park	Active
32	Park Ave. Soccer Park	Active
33	Poplar Hills Park	Active
34	Foxhill Heights Park	Active
35	Oakhill Heights Park	Active
36	Onondaga Ball Park	Active
37	Centennial Park	Active
38	Elliot Field	Active
39	Jacob's Woods	Passive
40	Sunny Hill Park	Active
41	Arena Park	Active
42	Snowball Park	Active
43	Cenotaph War Memorial	Active
44	King William Park	Active
45	Brant/Onondaga Park	Active
46	Mount Pleasant Park	Active
47	Mount Pleasant Nature Park	Active
48	Burford Optimist and Lions Park	Active
49	Summit Park	Active
50	Juliet Wolverton Park	Active
51	Barker's Bush	Active
52	Dawdy Park	Active
53	Jay Wells Park	Active
55	Woodslee Park	Active
56	Mile Hill Meadows Park	Active
57	Watts Pond Trails	Active
58	Doug Hanna Park	Active
59	Deer Ridge Park	Proposed
60	King St. Parkette	Proposed
61	Empire 1	Proposed
62	Empire 2	Proposed
63	Losani St. George Park	Proposed
64	Paris Memorial Forest	Proposed
65	Art Cadmen Expansion (Pit)	Proposed
66	Stremma Park 1	Proposed
67	Stremma Park 2	Proposed
68	Gurney Sports Park	Proposed
69	Cedar North Park	Proposed
70	Sifton Park	Proposed
71	TCA Park 1	Proposed
72	TCA Park 2	Proposed
73	Paris Grand	Proposed
74	North of the Nith	Proposed

Park Amenities & Facilities

Park Amenities **Park Facilities**

- Washrooms (May include Male & Female Washrooms, Changing Rooms or Portable Washrooms)
- Tennis
- Splash Pad
- Ball Diamonds (Baseball & Softball Diamonds)
- Children's Playground
- Toboggan Hill
- Horseshoes Space
- Pavilion Shelter (May include Picnic Tables)
- Soccer (Soccer Fields)
- Basketball Court (May include a Full or Half-Sze Court)
- Multi-Purpose Sport Area (May include a Multi-Use Court, Pad or Field)
- Volleyball (Volleyball Courts)
- Dog Park
- Skate Park
- Tetherball
- Amphitheatre
- Outdoor Fitness Equipment
- Outdoor Pickleball Courts
- Open Green Space (Open space useable to the public)
- Picnic Area (Includes Picnic Tables)
- Seating (May include Wooden or Metal Seating Benches, Wooden Bleachers, Park Benches)
- Parking (May include Street Parking, Regular Parking Spaces, Loop Parking or Neighbourhood Parking)
- Specialty Benches (Includes Ingraved Memorial Seating Benches)
- Wayfinding (May include a Map, Information Board, and Park Signage)
- Walking Trail (May include a Park Walking Loop Trail or a Recreational Walking Trail)
- Pond (Water Pond with the restrictions of Fishing, swimming, and Boating)
- Bike Rack
- Park Play Structure (Includes a Park Climbing Structure)

ID #	Park	Park Classification	Address	Available Amenities & Facilities
41	Arena Park (Gaukel Memorial Community Centre)	Community Park	7 Gaukel Dr, St. George	
1	Axton Park	Neighbourhood Park	57 Schuyler St, Paris	
2	Bemrose Park	Neighbourhood Park	56 Whitlaw Way, Paris	
45	Brant – Onondaga Park	Neighbourhood Park	23 Brant School Rd, Onondaga	
30	Broadview Park	Neighbourhood Park	8 Meadow Lane, Burford	
28	Art Cadman Lions Park	Community Park	78 Maple Ave, Burford	
48	Burford Optimist and Lions Park (Burford Community Centre)	Destination Park	14 Potter Dr, Burford	
37	Centennial Park	Neighbourhood Park	363 Blue Lake Rd, St. George	
4	Charlton Park	Community Park	252 Grand River St. N, Paris	
10	Cobblestone Common			
59	Deer Ridge Park (2026)	Neighbourhood Park	124 Gort Ave., Paris	
58	Doug Hanna Park (2026)	Community Park	7 Becker St. Paris	
52	Dawdy Park	Neighbourhood Park	80 Hartley Avenue, Paris	

ID #	Park	Park Classification	Address	Available Amenities & Facilities
3	Forest Drive Park	Neighbourhood Park	23 A Forest Dr, Paris	
34	Foxhill Heights Park	Neighbourhood Park	13 Farrow Rd, Brantford	
75	Glen Morris Centennial Hall	Neighbourhood Park	17 Dunbar St., Glen Morris	
21	Rising Park (Glen Morris Ball)	Neighbourhood Park	5 Brook St, Glen Morris	
19	Grandville Park	Community Park	146 Grandville Circle, Paris	
20	Green Lane Sports Complex & Simply Grand Dog Park	Destination Park	8 Green Lane, Paris	
22	Harrisburg Ball Park	Neighbourhood Park	20 German School Rd, St. George	
26	Harrisburg Church Park	Neighbourhood Park	81 Harrisburg Rd, St. George	
29	Janice Hunt Memorial Park	Neighbourhood Park	3 The Key, Burford	
53	Jay Wells Park	Community Park	1 Scenic Ridge Gate, Paris	
31	John St. Park	Neighbourhood Park	51 Lorne Ave, Burford	

ID #	Park	Park Classification	Address	Available Amenities & Facilities
50	Juliet Wolverton Park	Neighbourhood Park	16 Arlington Parkway, Paris	
5	Jury Street Park	Neighbourhood Park	18 Jury St, Paris	
44	King William Park	Community Park	52 King William St, St. George	
6	Kings Ward Park	Neighbourhood Park	8 Broadway St E, Paris	
12	Lions Park Paris (Paris Community Pool and Pete Lavoie Ball Park)	Destination Park	60, 70-80 Laurel Street, Paris	
56	Mile Hill Meadows Park	Neighbourhood Park	35 Edgar Place, Paris	
46	Mount Pleasant Park	Community Park	555 Burtch Rd, Mt. Pleasant	
23	New Durham Ball Park	Neighbourhood Park	6 Muir Rd., S., Brant	
35	Oakhill Heights Park	Neighbourhood Park	39 Isabel Rd, Brant	
36	Onondaga Ball Park	Neighbourhood Park	31 Brantford St, Onondaga	

ID #	Park	Park Classification	Address	Available Amenities & Facilities
25	Oakland Community Centre Park	Community Park	3 King St, Oakland	
32	Park Ave. Soccer Park	Neighbourhood Park	26 Park Ave, Burford	
16	Paris - Optimist Park	Community Park	3 Catharine St, Paris	
33	Poplar Hills Park	Neighbourhood Park	30 Kingsmount Cres, Brant	
15	Rest Acres Ridge Park	Neighbourhood Park	40 Long Lane, Paris	
24	Scotland - Optimist Park	Community Park	85 Simcoe St, Scotland	
42	Snowball Park	Neighbourhood Park	10 Beverly St W, St. George	
49	Summit Park	Neighbourhood Park	98 Lorne Card Dr., Paris	
40	Sunny Hill Park	Destination Park	87 Sunnyside Dr, St. George	
11	Twin Rivers Stadium	Community Park	4 Elm Street, Paris	

ID #	Park	Park Classification	Address	Available Amenities & Facilities
14	Victoria Park	Neighbourhood Park	30 Churchill Drive, Paris	
13	Willow Street Park	Neighbourhood Park	3 Brock St, Paris	
55	Woodslee Park	Neighbourhood Park	105 Woodslee Ave, Paris	

Zones of Focused Development

The 2023 Official Plan outlines the community structure and expected growth in the County to through 2051.

Key objectives of the Community System are to support the goals of complete communities, connect residents, provide equitable access to amenities, protect the natural environment, and encourage economic and cultural activities that support the health and prosperity of residents.
The County of Brant is made up of the following four systems:

- **The Settlement Area System** – with a focus on growth and development.
- **The Agricultural System** – with a focus on land protection.
- **The Natural Heritage System** – with a focus on ecological integrity.
- **The Hazardous Lands System** – with a focus on risk avoidance.

Lands within the Settlement Area System will accommodate the vast majority of the County's growth to 2051. The level and form of intensification in settlement areas means that redevelopment will be accompanied by a general loss of front and backyard green space. The County can expect more people living in areas served by much less yard space. These residents will need to have access to other forms of greenspace and recreation areas. This suggests the increased importance of parkland and associated demand placed on the parks and recreational services provided by the County. Acquiring parkland and investing in more amenities within County-owned parks will make neighbourhoods livable while supporting the intensification.

"The County has projected its population for the year 2051 to be approximately 59,000 residents. This estimate, reflecting the County's ongoing growth trends, will be used as a foundational figure in the development of the Parks Master Plan, ensuring that it aligns with the data and insights found in other County reports."

Expected Areas of Growth – County-Wide Plan

The County of Brant is on the cusp of a transformative period, with significant development projects planned over the next few years. These exciting developments are projected to bring a welcome surge in population, revitalizing the community and fostering growth. To ensure residents enjoy an enhanced quality of life amidst this expansion, the County is committed to expanding its recreational infrastructure.

A key component of this plan is the creation of new park spaces. Based on current development applications, it is anticipated that the following will occur:

- Ward 1 will see the addition of 3 new parks, providing residents with more opportunities for leisure and recreation.
- Wards 2 and 3, experiencing some of the most significant growth, will benefit from a combined total of 11 new parks, offering diverse green spaces for families and individuals to connect with nature.
- Ward 4 will also see improvements with the development of 4 new parks; and
- Ward 5 will gain 3 new parks.

In total, the County of Brant will soon boast 21 new parks.

Beyond parks, the County recognizes the importance of active transportation and access to nature. To that end, the development plan includes the creation of 10 new trails that will wind throughout the region. These trails will provide residents with opportunities for walking, cycling and enjoying the scenic beauty of the County of Brant.

This ambitious vision reflects the County's dedication to creating a vibrant and thriving community for all its residents. For a comprehensive understanding of the specific locations of these new parks and trails, as well as detailed information on the broader development plans, please consult the Background Study & Service Standards Document. This document provides valuable insights into the future of the County of Brant and the exciting opportunities that lie ahead.

Responding to Change

The overall population and socio-demographic make-up is changing Province-wide and most notably in areas that are targeted for growth. The County of Brant has several considerations to make, including the aging (in-place) population, young families (with and without children), students and newcomers. New and re-developed parks should consider the current and anticipated demographics of the County and include facilities and amenities that appeal to different ages and interests. However, they should also be flexible to change in the future.

Population data helps to identify future demands for the County of Brant's parkland. Potential considerations include:

- Adding sizeable new populations to established neighbourhoods will place demands on existing parks and outdoor recreation facilities, many of which are aging.
- More people using parks requires greater and more robust maintenance practice and may create challenges in accommodating larger events which may lead to security concerns.
- As the County grows, there are fewer opportunities for parkland acquisition. The built-up areas within the community fabric will make it difficult for the County to expand existing parks or secure lands for new parks in the primary settlement areas. New enhanced approaches to parkland acquisitions, policies and services will be required. This could include developing a framework for privately owned parks (POPs) and working with school boards or other partners to acquire surplus lands that would be integral components to enhancing County's park and open space networks.
- Specific age groups may be concentrated in certain parts of the built-up areas, which may help delineate a finer grain of detail for parks and open spaces in different geographic areas across the County.
- Cultural variety affects how different groups use parks. For example, some cultures place high value on having large open spaces for family social gatherings. Additional park infrastructure and amenities are required to provide welcoming outdoor spaces for new residents.
- Although the County has a higher median household income than the Province, equitable access to parks and facilities for all residents should still be a priority. Lower income households may have few and/or small outdoor areas and should be a consideration in parkland distribution and equity.

Climate Change Adaptation

The County of Brant is growing and has a responsibility to create a resilient and proactive approach to mitigate the impacts of climate change. The County of Brant declared a Climate Emergency in 2019 and has since developed a Climate Action Plan. Communities and infrastructure must be adapted to be more resilient, reduce greenhouse gas emissions across all sectors, and protect valuable water resources and natural areas.

The County's parkland contributes to reducing many of the impacts of climate change, such as flooding, extreme heat, water quality, health and safety, erosion and infrastructure damage, power outages and food insecurity. In addition, park spaces can be designed to cope better with the impacts of climate change.

Part 5, Section 4.1 of the County's Official Plan recognizes the responsibility of the County to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adopt measures to adapt and reduce the impacts of a changing climate. The Official Plan directs that the County shall:

- Incorporate climate change considerations in planning for, and the development of, infrastructure including public service facilities.
- Prepare for the impacts of a changing climate by supporting improved air quality, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, and implementation of low-impact development strategies.
- Promote the use of active transportation, complete communities, and maximize retention and enhancement of vegetation where possible.

Through the guidance of the Official Plan, the Parks Master Plan can make an impact on mitigating and adapting to climate change. The Official Plan supports and guides the County towards a greener community, which includes ensuring responsibilities are met above and beyond when it comes to parkland and its response to climate change.

The County of Brant's Climate Action Plan (approved November 2024) highlights the importance of preserving and maintaining natural spaces throughout the County of Brant. The Plan presents important actions to help the County both reduce emissions and become more resilient such as, designing adaptive park spaces to cope with the changing climate, preserving trees and natural assets, enhancing biodiversity and exploring ways to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with maintaining our outdoor spaces.

Climate change will continue to impact parks requiring adaptation to ensure resiliency. One of the immediate impacts is a shift in seasonally dependent activities, hampered by a warming climate impacting the facilities needed and their operations and maintenance. Increased hazards, such as flooding or smog, also impacts park function, increasing maintenance costs and impacting usability. Creating adaptable spaces and facilities whose purpose can shift overtime will help with parks adaptation. Resilient park design considerations include non-resource intensive planting, water absorption, the need for heat refuges and the creation of desirable microclimates.

Table 2: Climate Change Mitigation Methods that the County of Brant is focused on.

Climate Action Plan Adaptation Methods

Climate Change Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Positive Effects
Flooding & Water Quality	**Green Infrastructure:** • Rain gardens • Permeable paving • Bioswales • Green roofs • Creation of new or expansion of existing wetlands and improving naturally vegetated buffers on lands adjacent to wetlands • Restoration of riparian buffers near floodplains and bodies of water • Reforestation and afforestation • Low Impact Development (LID) Facilities	• Stormwater management through enhanced infiltration • Flood mitigation • Increase in water quality • Erosion control • Soil stability
Air Quality	• Tree Planting (increase in canopy coverage) • Low and Zero-emission equipment and vehicles • Turf areas – 50 sq m produces oxygen for a family of four • Transition to renewable energy sources (solar, wind, hydroelectric) • Improvement to the energy efficiency of buildings • Reduce mowing by converting underutilized grassed areas to grasslands, pollinator or other habitats.	• Reduction GHG Emissions • Sequestration of Carbon Dioxide

Rising Temperatures & Extreme Weather	• Tree planting and preservation (1 acre of trees can absorb the equivalent of a car driving for 17 Km) • Shade structures, • Material selections that resist wear and tear • Updated building standards to withstand extreme weather events • Incorporating Cooling Amenities (water features, refill stations etc.)	• Addition of more shade cooling effect systems • Plant biodiversity • Naturalization of different areas • Decrease in the heat island effect
Invasive Species	• Mechanical and chemical removals or controlled burns • Increase in native plantings • Seasonal maintenance	• Habitat restoration and diversity • Increase in soil quality and structure • Helps support native flora and fauna

Tree Canopy Coverage Study – Summary of Findings

In the spring of 2023, County staff conducted four (4) separate canopy coverage studies to help direct strategic initiatives (such as the Parks Master Plan), determine priority areas, create goals and analyze current benefits. Land and tree cover was assessed using the USDA Forest Service i-Tree Canopy tool using 2017/2018 leaf-on imagery from Google Earth. This was the most recent and complete year available.

Increasing canopy coverage within the County of Brant is a top priority. Increasing tree cover on County lands and parks can be executed by retiring areas of land currently mowed with naturalization plantings (60% of parklands is manicured grass), increasing park and cemetery plantings and initiating a street tree planting program. Tree planting and naturalization opportunity mapping was completed in 2023, which will help the County of Brant's Forestry Division determine planting needs and priority areas. Reducing grassed areas also can cut costs by decreasing the need for mowing and trimming activities.

The County of Brant is steadily growing its tree canopy toward the 30% target through ongoing planting initiatives. To provide a clearer understanding of current canopy conditions, the following percentages illustrate tree canopy coverage across various areas: **24.7%** for all public and private lands in the County, **38.73%** on County-owned lands, and **27.25%** within Brant parks. These figures offer valuable insights into the extent of tree cover across the County and within its different jurisdictions.

Current County of Brant Initiatives – Parks & Forestry

County Initiatives
Good Forestry Practices By-law
• Prevents the destruction or injuring of trees within and adjacent to natural heritage features and areas in the County of Brant. • Promotes Good Forestry Practices and encourages sustainable harvesting.

Earth Day
• **Tree Planting:** Each year, The County of Brant organizes an Earth Day Tree Planting event and a fall tree planting event in partnership with the Grand River Conservation Authority, and the Brant Tree Coalition (part of Brant Waterways). The location of the event changes from year to year making tree planting accessible to more residents and have impacts across the County.

- **Community Clean-up:** The County of Brant provides residents with supplies to organize a community garbage clean-up day. Residents can form a group, submit a clean-up location and pick up garbage bags and gloves from a local library. Garbage bags are collected by County Staff.

Volunteer Tree Planting

- The County actively engages in community tree planting initiatives, organizing at least one annual fall tree planting event. These efforts are strengthened through strategic partnerships with organizations such as TD Friends of the Environment Foundation (TD Tree Days) and other collaborative programs. These partnerships leverage collective resources and expertise to enhance the success of tree planting initiatives and contribute to a greener County.

Tree Inventory and Assessment Program

- A County-wide tree inventory and assessment was conducted for trees located in parks, cemeteries and vacant land. This inventory is to be updated annually and be used to determine future management actions such as tree maintenance, tree planting needs and assessing canopy coverage and environmental benefits.

Memorial Tree Program

- The Memorial Tree Program allows the public to pay tribute to a loved one by donating and dedicating trees in a cemetery or park.

Tree Canopy Assessment

- Using i-Tree, the County of Brant conducted a canopy coverage and health assessment in 2023. This data helps staff plan for necessary actions to achieve a healthy, sustainable urban forest. This data also provides staff with insight as to where trees are needed to help improve shade, reduce runoff / improve water quality and prevent flooding.



Section 4: Community Outreach

Sunny Hill Park, St. George ON

Section 4: Community Outreach

Strategic Engagement

The purpose of the Parks Master Plan is to guide the expansion, development and operations of the parks system as the County of Brant continues to grow. This master planning process will guide the future direction of County parks by defining a collaborative vision and goals.

The process sought ideas and insights from residents, community stakeholders and staff. The feedback was used to guide and develop the county-wide vision and key priorities for the parks system over the next 26 years.

Who We Engaged:

- Members of the public, community organizations and internal division staff;
- Community organizations representing a variety of park users and interests; and,
- County of Brant Council.

How We Engaged:

Public Survey: An online survey hosted at engagebrant.ca/parksandrecreation was operational from May 17 to July 11, 2023, serving as the principal means of engaging with the general public. Furthermore, paper copies and phone-in options for the survey were made available.

Ideas Lab: An online platform on Engage Brant allowed community members to contribute their insights, ideas and opinions regarding future park planning in Brant.

Drop-in Community Open Houses: Community members were encouraged to take part in three drop-in open houses held in selected Brant communities. These open houses fostered an informal setting, enabling the community to interact with staff from multiple departments, seek clarifications and receive updates on ongoing park plans and projects.

Internal Focus Group: Internal focus groups involving representatives from various roles, including but not limited to Directors, Managers, Supervisors and Coordinators from the Parks and Recreation division, were conducted. Participating groups were assigned specific focus study areas along with prompt questions to guide staff engagement. Topics encompassed Sport Facilities/Programs, Playground Structures, Trails, Open Space & Natural Areas and Climate Change & Sustainability.



Engagement Summary

500+ People Engaged
The development of the Parks Master Plan was guided by input from residents, stakeholders, staff, and community organizations, who utilized various feedback methods.

Public Survey



Drop-in Community Open Houses



Internal Focus Groups



* Refer to the Background Study & Service Standards Document for more detailed breakdown on the Community Engagement segment

Idea's Lab Tool



Park improvements

- Residents indicated a desire for increased diversity in the facilities and amenities available within the County of Brant. Proposals for enhancements to both existing and newly planned parks, particularly in terms of trail amenities, were articulated. Furthermore, there is significant concerns regarding the overall maintenance of the County's parks, as residents expressed apprehension about their current condition.

Activity Participation

- A considerable number of residents engaged in dog walking within a local park in their community. Additionally, numerous residents participated in hiking activities in the natural areas located throughout the County of Brant. Furthermore, there is notable utilization of the trail networks across the county, both for cycling and for recreational purposes in local parks.

Park Importance & Amenities

- A significant proportion of residents in the County of Brant express that active amenities are of considerable importance to them.
- The enhancement of tree canopy opportunities is regarded as essential, given its potential in mitigating the impacts of climate change. Residents advocate for the development of additional passive amenities in the County.

Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation Engagement

The engagement with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN) focused on ensuring meaningful and ongoing engagement in park projects, respecting cultural significance and land use, integrating Indigenous knowledge and practices and exploring opportunities for cultural exchange, education, art, and land restoration.

Key themes that emerged:

Ongoing Engagement MCFN emphasized the need for early and continuous involvement throughout all project phases, with regular updates and communication.

Cultural Sensitivity: Specific areas of cultural significance were identified (south of branch, South Dumfries, 553 Governors Road East, the historic barn and school site of Augustus/Peter Jones), highlighting the importance of archaeological review and respecting these sites.

Indigenous Knowledge Integration: MCFN advised to use their communications department for promoting events, connecting with artists and consulting on cultural design elements. They also suggested involving their medicinal practitioner for plant species selection and discussing protocols for harvesting and site accessibility.

Collaboration and Partnership: MCFN expressed interest in collaborative opportunities like cultural exchange programs, joint events and relationship building through volunteering.

Representation and Storytelling: MCFN suggested incorporating Indigenous symbolism in park hardscape installations such as benches, bridges and pavilions. Interior features and focal points within facilities such as entries and stairwells can be utilized to tell stories and acknowledge historic contributions.

Land Stewardship: MCFN prioritized maintaining green spaces and accessibility while minimizing hardscapes and disturbances to existing habitat during park development.

Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation Recommendations

Recommendations

41. Establish a Formal Engagement Protocol:

Develop a written communication protocol for park project engagement, including communication channels, timelines and decision-making processes for engaging with Indigenous Nations throughout all project phases.

Method & Strategy

- Work with MCFN leadership to co-create the protocol, ensuring it reflects their preferences and respects their governance structures. This could involve regular meetings, dedicated project liaisons and clear communication of project updates.

42. Integrate Cultural Heritage Assessment:

Conduct research regarding a culturally significant site at 553 Governors Road East, known as the Augustus and Peter Jones barn/school site.

Method & Strategy

- Check the archaeological registry for any known artifacts associated with the site. Consult with MCFN throughout the assessment process and incorporate their feedback into site recognition. Consider installing interpretive historical signage at the property.

43. Incorporate Indigenous Knowledge in Design and Programming:

Actively seek MCFN input on park design, plant selection and programming.

Method & Strategy

- Consult with MCFN's representative son native plant species for landscaping, ensuring proper protocols for harvesting and site access. Collaborate with MCFN's communications department to promote events and opportunities for cultural exchange. Engage Indigenous artists in the design and creation of public art installations where appropriate.

44. Develop Collaborative Programs and Events:

Create opportunities for cultural exchange and education through joint programs and events.

Method & Strategy

- Partner with MCFN to develop and implement programs that showcase Indigenous culture, history and traditions. Explore opportunities for joint volunteering initiatives to foster relationship building. Support MCFN's cultural events and promote them within the wider community.

45. Prioritize Respectful Representation:

Ensure Indigenous culture is represented authentically and respectfully in park design and interpretive materials.

Method & Strategy

- Engage Indigenous artists and knowledge keepers in the design of public art, interpretive signage and other park features. Incorporate Indigenous symbolism and storytelling into hardscape installations and building designs. Review all interpretive materials with MCFN to ensure accuracy and cultural sensitivity.

46. Balance Recreation with Conservation:

Prioritize land restoration and conservation during park development, minimizing disturbance to existing habitats.

Method & Strategy

- Conduct natural heritage screening of environment to identify sensitive areas and develop strategies to protect them. Involve MCFN in the development of park plans. Ensure park designs prioritize accessibility while minimizing environmental impact.

Six Nations of the Grand River Engagement

The engagement with the Six Nations of the Grand River revealed a profound desire for a project that transcends superficial engagement and instead fosters a truly collaborative and respectful partnership. This is not simply about developing a park; it's about acknowledging and rectifying historical imbalances, honouring Indigenous sovereignty and ensuring the preservation of cultural and ecological integrity.

Central to the Six Nations' concerns is the recognition of their deep and enduring connection to the Grand River and its surrounding lands. This connection is rooted in centuries of tradition, knowledge and stewardship. Therefore, any project undertaken in this area must prioritize:

Meaningful Engagement: Six Nations seeks an engagement process that moves beyond token gestures and instead involves genuine, ongoing dialogue. This includes transparency in how their feedback is incorporated into decision-making.

Cultural Preservation: The integration of Indigenous knowledge, the provision of spaces for cultural activities and the accurate representation of Indigenous history and culture are essential. This means actively involving Indigenous knowledge holders and artists in all stages of the project.

Environmental Stewardship: Land restoration and conservation are paramount, with a focus on adhering to Indigenous land benchmarks and incorporating traditional ecological knowledge. This includes prioritizing the health of the Grand River and its surrounding ecosystems.

Historical Context: It is vital to understand that the Six Nations of the Grand River territory is a result of the Haldimand Proclamation. That the current territory is a small portion of the original grant, and that there are ongoing land disputes. Therefore, any project that is undertaken must be done with this historical context in mind.

Self Determination: The Six Nations of the Grand River are a sovereign nation and expect that this fact is respected.

In essence, the Six Nations are calling for a project that embodies reconciliation, respect and a commitment to shared stewardship. This requires a fundamental shift in approach, one that prioritizes Indigenous perspectives and ensures that the project leaves a lasting legacy of positive impact.

Six Nations of the Grand River Recommendations

Recommendations

47. Engagement and Communication - Ongoing and Meaningful Engagement:

Establish a structured, iterative engagement process that includes regular, two-way dialogue throughout all project phases. Ensure all comments and feedback are documented, tracked and demonstrably incorporated into decision-making.

Method & Strategy

- Implement a formal engagement framework with clear timelines and milestones.
- Create a engagement log that tracks all feedback and how it was addressed.
- Organize workshops and collaborative design sessions, not just information sessions.
- Establish a joint steering committee with Six Nations representatives to oversee the engagement process.
- Utilize Lands and Resources (lrcs@sixnations) as an initial point of contact, and establish a dedicated environmental contact person.

48. Cultural Significance and Land Use: Indigenous Knowledge Integration

Integrate Indigenous knowledge into aspects of park design and programming by actively collaborating with knowledge holders and cultural experts.

Method & Strategy

- Engage Lands and Resources Assistant Director for placemaking initiatives and integrate their expertise into the design process.
- Host collaborative design workshops with Indigenous artists and knowledge keepers.
- Develop a framework for incorporating traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) into land management practices.
- Ensure that any integration of knowledge is done respectfully and collaboratively.
- Incorporate diverse Indigenous artists.

49. Specific Actions and Initiatives: Cultural Exchange and Education

Develop and implement collaborative cultural exchange and education programs that promote Six Nations history and materials, ensuring authenticity and respect.

Method & Strategy

- Partner with indigenous organizations to develop and deliver educational programs.
- Utilize the use of Six Nations-created materials and resources.
- Collaborate with indigenous architects and professionals to ensure cultural accuracy in program design.
- Collaborate in providing workshops that teach about Six Nations history, culture and environmental practices.

50. Specific Actions and Initiatives: Art and Public Spaces

Incorporate art installations and public spaces that authentically represent Indigenous culture and history, using clan animals and other significant symbols in some park designs.

Method & Strategy

- Follow the Public Art Policy for inclusion of Indigenous art in parks
- Consider utilizing symbols within park design that feature clan animals (turtle, wolf, bear, tree of peace, eastern white pine) and other cultural symbols.
- Create spaces for storytelling, ceremonies and cultural gatherings.

51. Specific Actions and Initiatives: Land Restoration and Conservation

Implement robust land restoration and conservation measures that respect Indigenous land benchmarks.

Method & Strategy

- Follow GRCA recommendations for development buffer zones.
- Conduct a comprehensive wildlife surveys when applicable that include species such as white-tailed deer.
- Collaborate with environmental experts to create restoration plans

Section 5: Park System Assessment



Eric Thomlinson River Access Point, Glen Morris, ON

Section 5: Park System Assessment

Existing Conditions Assessment

Existing Park System & Analysis:

This Parks Master Plan includes a needs analysis to determine future parkland requirements. The analysis assesses park functionality, population service levels, parkland distribution and inventory requirements to ensure adequate park space for all residents.

The assessment that was conducted followed the following components:

Park Functionality – Is the existing parks inventory functioning as intended, and are there any areas of the County where there are gaps?

Population Service Levels – Is the current and projected parkland enough to serve residents on a per capita basis (i.e. 10 square meters of green space per resident)?

Parkland Distribution – Is there a park within 400 metres (or a five-minute walk) for all residents in the County?

Existing Inventory – How much parkland does the County need to meet service level targets for specific types of recreation facilities?

The following sections summarize the needs analysis for each different park type, including identifying future parkland that has already been secured, such as plans for Gurney Sports Park.

Parkland Walkability:

Across the County of Brant, a diverse network of parks serves the various communities. Recognizing the importance of accessible green spaces, the County of Brant plans to adopt a standard 400-800-meter walkability radius as a guiding principle for parkland distribution within settlement areas. This approach aims to ensure that all residents within these areas have convenient access to parks within a comfortable walking distance, promoting physical activity, social interaction and overall well-being.

Assessment Overview

The County has a diverse park system featuring numerous parks dispersed across various communities. The following analysis scrutinizes the distribution of parkland within the County, centering on Paris, Burford, Glen Morris, Harrisburg, Mt. Pleasant, New Durham, Oakhill, Oakland, Onondaga, St. George, Scotland and other smaller communities.

Key Findings

Parkland Availability:

- Communities within the County of Brant adhere to the walkability standard by having a park within 400-800 meters of all residents. This accessibility is pivotal for fostering physical activity, community engagement and environmental benefits. Although there are certain areas that don't meet the walkability requirements largely due to their overall population density, most residents can still reach a park within the 10 to 15-minute timeframe when using a vehicle.

Paris – A Central Parkland Hub:

As the largest community in the County, Paris possesses the most extensive park system, comprising a total of 27 parks, spanning various classifications, including:

- **Destination Parks** are spaces with unique amenities that offer diverse opportunities for all residents. (Pottruff Road Sports Complex and North of the Nith)
- **Community Parks** provide residents with various sports fields and other park amenities that offer passive usage, which may also include facilities and services.
- **Neighbourhood Parks (Parkettes)** enables residents to utilize the available facilities within the designated space, which may include playgrounds, basketball courts, soccer fields and ball diamonds.
- **Commons & Urban Green** acts as a community focal point or as a public gathering space that offers passive use with its unique layout.
- **River access points** allow residents to enjoy the river with views and environmental protection. Areas of the access point can be found along the backs of the Grand River, Nith River or other tributaries.
- **Natural Area Parks** may allow passive use and offer walking trails such as Jacob's Woods or Barker's Bush, as it is a very dense space with forestry.

Future Parkland Development:

- Several communities, including St. George, Oakland, Scotland, Paris, and Mt. Pleasant have parkland parcels planned as part of future development. These developments will enrich parks by filling infrastructure needs gaps and providing recreational opportunities for their growing populations.

Regional Disparities:

- The distribution of parks varies across the county. While Paris and St. George exhibit a higher concentration of parks, other areas, such as Glen Morris and Oakland, feature fewer parks. This variation may be influenced by factors such as population density, land availability and historical development patterns. The walkability criteria for areas such as Mt. Pleasant, Harrisburg and other smaller communities will find that it will have a smaller count of available parks, giving it an overall walkability standard closer to 800 meters for its surrounding communities.

Conclusion

The analysis of parkland availability within the County of Brant reveals a generally positive picture, with most communities adhering to the 400-800-meter walkability standard for park access. This accessibility is crucial for promoting physical activity, fostering community engagement and enhancing environmental well-being.

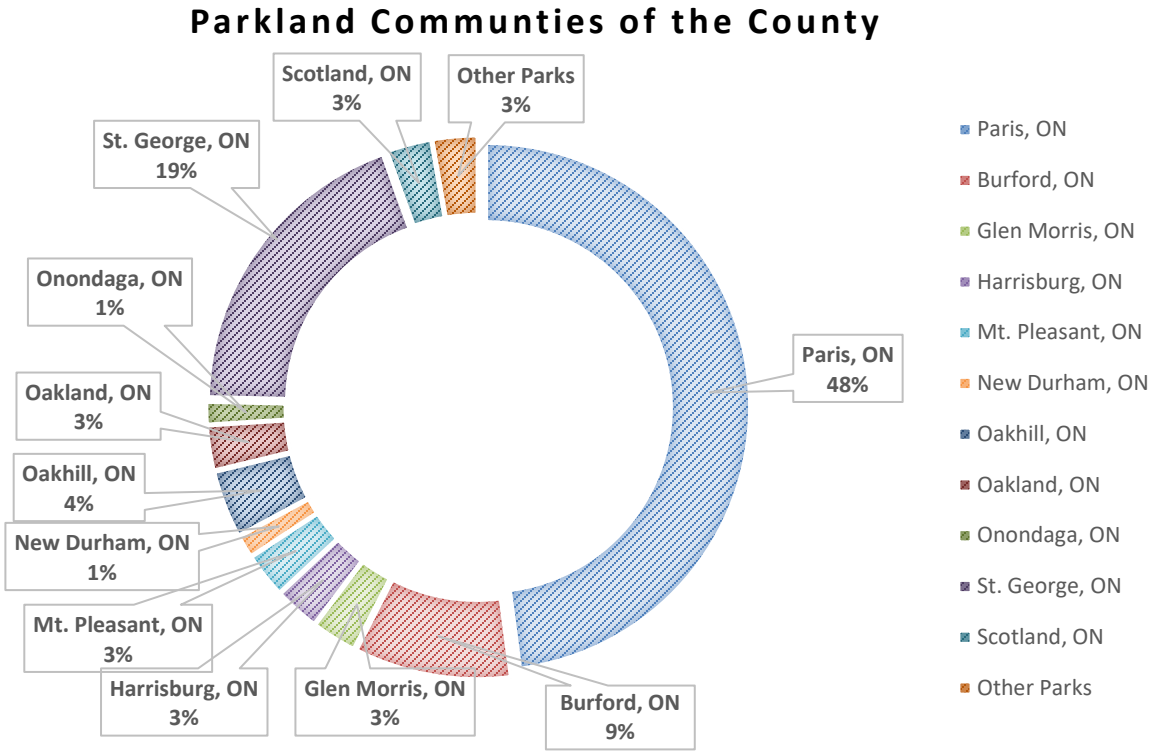
While Paris, as the largest community, boasts a diverse park system encompassing various park types, regional disparities exist in park distribution. Communities with lower population densities may have fewer parks within the 400-meter radius, necessitating a slightly larger walkability standard of 800 meters.

Future development plans, particularly in communities like St. George, Oakland, and Scotland, will enhance parkland availability by addressing infrastructure gaps and providing recreational opportunities for growing populations.

This analysis provides valuable insights for future park planning initiatives, guiding the County in developing a comprehensive and equitable park system that meets the diverse needs of all residents.

Across the County, parkland locations are found in different communities, which offers the residents the opportunity to utilize the space with the provided facility and amenities at that location. A breakdown of the County's parkland is illustrated below:

Figure 6: Current Distribution of Parks in Brant County





Parkland Walkability Overview

The County comprises of many parks with a walkability standard of 400-800 metres, allowing residents to travel within a short distance to reach their desired destination at such parks in the denser communities compared to the few with fewer parks for its community. The County is composed of individual communities, such as:

Burford Community

Deficiency Area – Yes
Walkability Standard of 400-800 Metres, (5-10 Minute Walk)

Within the Burford community in the County of Brant, a deficiency in parkland availability is primarily observed in the southeast portion of the town, near Eighth Concession Road and Bishopsgate. This area currently lacks significant residential development, consisting largely of farmland. However, as future residential development occurs in this zone, it will create opportunities to address this parkland deficiency and provide recreational spaces for future residents.

Total of 6 Parks - Parkland List

- Burford Optimist and Lions Park (Burford Community Centre)
- Burford Lions Park – Art Cadman (Lions Centennial Park)
- Janice Hunt Memorial Park
- John St. Park
- Park Ave. Soccer Park
- Broadview Park

Burtch Community

Deficiency Area – Yes
Walkability Standard of 400-800 Metres, (5-10 Minute Walk)

The community of Burtch is considered deficient in parkland due to its low population density. As of 2021, the community had approximately 60 residents. Any future development proposals in Burtch would likely require a significant population increase to justify the inclusion of parkland amenities.

Total of 0 Parks - Parkland List

Cainsville Community

Deficiency Area – Yes
Walkability Standard of 400-800 Metres, (5-10 Minute Walk)

Currently, the community of Cainsville only has one parkland area, serving the entire community. This creates a deficiency in the southwestern portion of the region near Highway 54 and Highway 18. This area is not as developed yet, but there are plans for a future park in Cainsville that will address this gap and provide recreational amenities to this part of the community.

Total of 1 Park - Parkland List

- Brant - Onondaga Park

Cathcart Community

Deficiency Area – Yes
Walkability Standard of 400-800 Metres, (5-10 Minute Walk)

With a community area of approximately 35 hectares and a population of around 180 residents as of 2021, Cathcart exhibits a parkland deficiency. This is primarily due to limited available land suitable for park development and the existing residential distribution within the community. Cathcart maintains a predominantly rural character given its current population size.

Total of 0 Parks - Parkland List

Fairfield Plains Community

Deficiency Area – Yes
Walkability Standard of 400-800 Metres, (5-10 Minute Walk)

Fairfield Plains, a smaller community compared to its neighbours, lacks parkland. With a population of approximately 30 residents as of 2021, the demand for parkland is low. Furthermore, limited space for development within the community's existing boundaries restricts the possibility of future parkland inclusion, leaving Fairfield Plains deficient in this regard.

Total of 0 Parks - Parkland List

Falkland Community

Deficiency Area – Yes
Walkability Standard of 400-800 Metres, (5-10 Minute Walk)

Falkland, a small community in the County of Brant, encompasses approximately 59 hectares of land and had a population of only 180 residents as of 2021. Currently, this community lacks adequate parkland. While future development is possible, it is unlikely due to limited availability of land suitable for residential development. Falkland maintains a rural character and is located west of Paris.

Total of 0 Parks - Parkland List

Glen Morris Community

Deficiency Area – No
Walkability Standard of 400-800 Metres, (5-10 Minute Walk)

With a population of 540 in 2021, the community of Glen Morris exceeds parkland walkability standards. The presence of two parks located on opposite sides of the community enhances accessibility for residents, as most individuals are within a convenient 800-meter walking distance from at least one park.

Total of 3 Parks - Parkland List

- Rising Park (Glen Morris Ball Park)
- Glen Morris Centennial Hall
- Eric Thomlinson Access Point / Wray and Marilyn Cline Park

Gobles Community

Deficiency Area – Yes
Walkability Standard of 400-800 Metres, (5-10 Minute Walk)

Gobles is the smallest community in the County with a size of approximately 12 hectares and a population of 40 residents in 2021. This community is geographically isolated from other settlements. Due to its small size and dispersed population, Gobles lacks adequate parkland walkability for its residents. Situated in a rural and sparsely populated area, future development within Gobles is unlikely. Furthermore, the acquisition of land for potential parkland development may present significant challenges.

Total of 0 Parks - Parkland List

Harley Community

Deficiency Area – No
Walkability Standard of 400-800 Metres, (5-10 Minute Walk)

The community of Harley has one park with a playground, currently meeting walkability standards for residents. However, this park's continued existence is contingent on a public access agreement expiring in 2031. If the property is sold, the agreement may be terminated, potentially requiring the park's removal. This would create a parkland deficiency in Harley unless a new park or development were to be established.

Total of 1 Park - Parkland List

- Harley Playground

Harrisburg Community

Deficiency Area – No
Walkability Standard of 400-800 Metres, (5-10 Minute Walk)

The community of Harrisburg currently has adequate parkland coverage. Given its smaller size, two parks effectively serve the entire region, with most residents within an 800-meter walkable distance.

Total of 2 Parks - Parkland List

- Harrisburg Ball Park
- Harrisburg Church Park

Kelvin Community

Deficiency Area – Yes
Walkability Standard of 400-800 Metres, (5-10 Minute Walk)

This community faces a parkland deficiency primarily due to a lack of available land for development. Most of the area is occupied by large residential properties with ample land, limiting opportunities for public green spaces. Additionally, the small population of 70 residents does not warrant the construction of significant park infrastructure.

Total of 0 Parks - Parkland List

Middleport Community

Deficiency Area – Yes
Walkability Standard of 400-800 Metres, (5-10 Minute Walk)

Middleport, located along the Grand River, exhibits a deficiency in parkland walkability. The community currently lacks any designated parkland areas. Furthermore, future development and the acquisition of land for potential park spaces would be challenging due to the large lot sizes of existing residential properties.

Total of 0 Parks - Parkland List

Mt. Pleasant Community

Deficiency Area – No
Walkability Standard of 400-800 Metres, (5-10 Minute Walk)

In Mt. Pleasant, parkland is concentrated in the central and northern areas. However, the northern portion, particularly near McGill Road and Mt. Pleasant Road, exhibits a more significant walkability gap due to lower population density. While proposed developments in Mt. Pleasant will increase overall population density, it is anticipated that a walkability gap in the north will likely persist.

Total of 2 Parks - Parkland List

- Mt. Pleasant Park
- Mt. Pleasant Nature Park

Muir Community

Deficiency Area – Yes
Walkability Standard of 400-800 Metres, (5-10 Minute Walk)

Muir is one of the smallest communities in the County of Brant, encompassing approximately 5 hectares of land and having a population of only 20 residents as of 2021. Situated on the County's border, Muir exhibits a strong rural character due to its isolation from nearby urban centers. Given its small size and low population density, future development within Muir is highly unlikely due to limited available land. This significantly limits the potential for future parkland development, classifying Muir as a community with a parkland deficiency.

Total of 0 Parks - Parkland List

New Durham Community

Deficiency Area – No
Walkability Standard of 400-800 Metres, (5-10 Minute Walk)

Parkland walkability in New Durham is generally good, considering the community's population. However, the presence of a large Concrete Precast company occupies a significant portion of the land within the community's boundaries, limiting the potential for future residential development and associated parkland expansion. To address existing recreational needs, the underutilized New Durham Ball Park will undergo revitalization.

Total of 1 Park - Parkland List

- New Durham Ball Park

Oakhill Community

Deficiency Area – No
Walkability Standard of 400-800 Metres, (5-10 Minute Walk)

Oakhill exhibits good parkland walkability, with most residents residing in the eastern portion of the community. This distribution may be influenced by the proximity of the Brantford Airport in the western area.

Total of 3 Parks - Parkland List

- Poplar Hills Park
- Foxhill Heights Park
- Oakhill Heights Park

Oakland Community

Deficiency Area – No
Walkability Standard of 400-800 Metres, (5-10 Minute Walk)

The community of Oakland exhibits good overall parkland walkability due to the concentration of denser neighbourhoods in the central area, contrasting with the more rural southern portion. Most Oakland residents have convenient access to the single park located near the center of the community. Future development potential for parkland expansion will depend on the availability of suitable land.

Total of 1 Park- Parkland List

- Oakland Community Centre Park

Onondaga Community

Deficiency Area – No
Walkability Standard of 400-800 Metres, (5-10 Minute Walk)

Onondaga has existing parkland that provides efficient walkability for all residents, meeting the established standard for not being deficient. Due to limited space for further development within the community, there is no immediate need for additional parkland.

Total of 1 Park - Parkland List

- Onondaga Ball Park

Paris Community

Deficiency Area – No
Walkability Standard of 400-800 Metres, (5-10 Minute Walk)

While Paris generally boasts a good amount of parkland within its community, areas south of the community, particularly near Highway 403 and Rest Acres Road, have a relative deficiency. This is expected to improve as future development, currently underway in these more rural zones, unfolds in the coming years.

Total of 27 Parks - Parkland List

- Green Lane Sports Complex & Simply Grand Dog Park
- Lions Park – Paris Community Pool and Pete Lavoie Ball Park
- Charlton Park
- Paris - Optimist Park
- Twin Rivers Stadium
- Jay Wells Park
- Axton Park
- Bemrose Park
- Forest Drive Park
- Grandville Park
- Jury Street Park
- Rest Acres Ridge Park
- Victoria Park
- Willow Street Park
- Dawdy Park
- Juliet Wolverton Park

- Mile Hill Meadows Park
- Summit Park
- Woodslee Linear Park
- Kings Ward Park
- Cenotaph War Memorial (Paris Cenotaph)
- Cobblestone Common
- Garden of Hope
- Watt's Pond Greenway
- Penman's Dam Park
- Bean Park
- Barker's Bush

Scotland Community

Deficiency Area – Yes
Walkability Standard of 400-800 Metres, (5-10 Minute Walk)

The community of Scotland currently has only one park, which serves the entire region. This creates a deficiency in parkland accessibility, particularly in the southeast near Highway 24 and Oakland Road, where the 800-meter walkability standard is not met. However, future plans include developing an additional park near Highway 24 and Oakland Road, which will address this gap and ensure adequate parkland access for all residents.

Total of 1 Park - Parkland List

- Optimist Park – Scotland

St. George Community

Deficiency Area – Yes
Walkability Standard of 400-800 Metres, (5-10 Minute Walk)

St. George has a concentration of parkland in the northeastern portion, resulting in deficiencies in the south near German School Road, the west near Brant Road, and the north near Highway 5 & Brant Road. While future developments aim to improve parkland access and address walkability gaps, a deficiency is expected to persist in the northwest area along Highway 5.

Total of 9 Parks - Parkland List

- Arena Park (Gaukel Memorial Community Centre)
- Jacob's Woods
- Sunny Hill Park

- Centennial Park
- Elliot Field
- Snowball Park
- Cenotaph War Memorial
- King William Park
- St. George Parking Lot (Truck Tech)



Parking Lot, St. George, ON

Parkland Classification Overview

Existing Parkland was classified and defined in the 2017 Recreation Master Plan. These classifications have been updated below to align with growth from development and existing and projected parkland use. Table 3 depicts the proposed parkland classifications and the current and projected parkland quantity by category.

Table 3: Existing Parkland Inventory (2024)

Existing Parkland - 2024	Quantity
Destination Park	5
Community Park	10
Neighbourhood Park	30
River Access Point	3
Commons & Urban Green	6
Natural Areas & Open Green Spaces	13
Total Parks – 67 Parks	

Anticipated Parkland Parks by 2051	Quantity
Destination Park	8
Community Park	14
Neighbourhood Park	40
River Access Point	4
Commons & Urban Green	7
Natural Areas & Open Green Spaces	16
Total Parks – 88 Anticipated Parkland Parks	

Other Existing Parkland - 2024 County Facility Landscaped Areas	Quantity
	24

Other Existing Parkland – 2024 Streetscapes & Entrance Features	Quantity
Cement Planters	17
Hanging Baskets	52
Gardens	61
Raised Planters	25
Roundabouts	7
Displays	6

Parkland Analysis

Parkland Per Capita Target Goal (2051) – 4.50 Hectares Per 1,000

The County of Brant has set an ambitious **parkland per capita target of 4.50 hectares per 1,000 residents by 2051**. To achieve this goal, the county will **need a total of 265.50 hectares of parkland**, given the **projected population of 59,000**.

Currently, the County has a **parkland supply of 142.40 hectares**, translating to a **current per capita rate of 3.50 hectares per 1,000 residents** as of **2024**. By 2051, the County will accumulate a **total of 87.95 hectares of parkland**, adding to the existing parkland supply, making a **total of 230.35 hectares**.

However, the forecasted parkland supply by 2051 is currently estimated at **230.35 hectares**, leaving a significant **shortfall of 35.15 hectares**. This shortfall highlights the need for proactive planning and acquisition strategies to meet the County's ambitious parkland goals.

To reach the 2051 target, the County must anticipate of acquiring an additional **35.15 hectares of parkland**, bringing the **total supply to 265.50 hectares**. The current projected supply of parkland that the County will have in 2051 will set a **parkland per capita of 3.90**, which falls under the **parkland per capita target goal of 4.50 hectares per 1,000**.

Current Parkland Supply 2024

As of 2024, the County of Brant has a current parkland supply of 142.40 hectares. This comprises the following classifications:

- Destination Parks: **53.25 hectares**
- Community Parks: **46.12 hectares**
- Neighbourhood Parks: **39.33 hectares**
- Commons & Urban Green Parks: **1.12 hectares**
- River Access Points: **2.58 hectares**

This sum totals **142.40 hectares.**

Separately, the County maintains **128.40 hectares of Natural Areas & Open Spaces**, which are not currently included in the overall parkland supply calculation.

If Natural Areas & Open Spaces were included in the calculation alongside the other five parkland classifications, the total parkland supply for the County of Brant would be 270.89 hectares.

In 2024, the County of Brant had a population of 40,700 residents.

Future Parkland Supply 2051

By 2051, the County of Brant **anticipates a parkland supply of 87.95 hectares**, distributed as follows:

- Destination Parks: **63.35 hectares**
- Community Parks: **11.04 hectares**
- Neighbourhood Parks: **12.08 hectares**
- Commons & Urban Green Parks: **0.04 hectares**
- River Access Points: **1.44 hectares**

This 87.95-hectare figure represents developed parkland. When combined with existing parkland, the **total supply for 2051 reaches 230.35 hectares**. This total excludes Natural Areas & Open Spaces.

The County treats Natural Areas & Open Spaces separately. Currently, these areas encompass 128.40 hectares, with a projected increase of 296.72 hectares, resulting in 425.12 hectares by 2051.

The County of Brant's projected population for 2051 is 59,000 residents.



Parkland Inventory

Table 4: Current Parkland Inventory and Anticipated Parkland Development by 2051

#	Destination Parks - 5 Parks	Location	Hectares
	Total Hectares – 53.25 ha		
48	Burford Optimist and Lions Park (Burford Community Centre)	Burford	8.05
20	Green Lane Sports Complex & Simply Grand Dog Park	Paris	16.62
12	Paris Lions Park - Paris Community Pool and Pete Lavoie Ball Park	Paris	22.84
41	Arena Park (Gaukel Memorial Community Centre)	St. George	3.54
40	Sunny Hill Park	St. George	2.20

#	Anticipated Destination Parks by 2051 - 2 Parks	Location	Hectares
	Total Hectares – 63.35 ha		
68	Gurney Sports Park - Pottruff Road	Paris	39.35
65	Art Cadman Expansion (Burford Gravel Pit)	Burford	24.00

#	Community Parks - 10 Parks	Location	Hectares
	Total Hectares – 46.12 ha		
4	Charlton Park	Paris	3.24
38	Elliott Field	St. George	2.01
44	King William Park	St. George	2.80
16	Paris - Optimist Park	Paris	2.96
24	Scotland Optimist Park	Scotland	5.15
26	Art Cadman Lions Park (Lions Centennial Park)	Burford	22.13
11	Twin Rivers Stadium	Paris	1.53
25	Oakland Community Centre Park	Oakland	1.64
47	Mount Pleasant Park	Mt. Pleasant	3.47
53	Jay Wells Park	Paris	1.19

#	Anticipated Community Parks by 2051 - 4 Parks	Location	Hectares
	Total Hectares – 11.04 ha **+ 51.15 ha of Open Green Spaces**		
58	Doug Hanna Park	Paris	2.09
61 & 62	Empire Homes Park + (11.15 ha of Open Green Space)	St. George	2.58
63	Losani	St. George	4.45

	+ (40 ha of Open Green Space)		
69	Cedar North Park	Paris	1.92
#	**Park Neighbourhood Parks - 30 Parks**	**Location**	**Hectares**
	Total Hectares – 39.33 ha		
1	Axton Park	Paris	0.40
45	Brant – Onondaga Park	Cainsville	5.59
2	Bemrose Park	Paris	0.42
37	Centennial Park	St. George	0.79
3	Forest Drive Park	Paris	1.63
34	Foxhill Heights Park	Oakhill	0.70
21	Rising Park (Glen Morris Ball Park)	Glen Morris	1.05
19	Grandville Park	Paris	5.15
22	Harrisburg Ball Park	Harrisburg	1.95
26	Harrisburg Church Park	Harrisburg	0.37
29	Janice Hunt Memorial Park	Burford	0.56
31	John St. Park	Burford	0.28
5	Jury Street Park	Paris	0.13
23	New Durham Ball Park	New Durham	1.77
35	Oakhill Heights Park	Oakhill	0.33
36	Onondaga Ball Park	Onondaga	6.15
32	Park Ave. Soccer Park	Burford	3.14
33	Poplar Hills Park	Oakhill	0.60
15	Rest Acres Ridge Park	Paris	1.09
14	Victoria Park	Paris	0.70
13	Willow Street Park	Paris	0.06
52	Dawdy Park	Paris	1.27
50	Juliet Wolverton Park	Paris	0.45
56	Mile Hill Meadows Park	Paris	1.22
49	Summit Park	Paris	0.59
55	Woodslee Park	Paris	0.37
6	Kings Ward Park	Paris	0.37
42	Snowball Park	St. George	0.50
30	Broadview Park	Burford	1.47
75	Glen Morris Centennial Hall	Glen Morris	0.23

#	Anticipated Neighbourhood Parks by 2051 - 10 Parks	Location	Hectares
	Total Hectares – 12.08 ha + (59.83 ha of Open Green Space)		
59	Deer Ridge Park (Nith Peninsula)	Paris	0.30
73	Paris Grand Park (Golf North) + (22.10 ha of Open Green Space)	Paris	2.15
70	Sifton (Cleaver Road)	Paris	1.18
66 & 67	Stremma + (15.46 ha of Open Green Space)	St. George	2.43
46	Mt. Pleasant Park Expansion	Mt. Pleasant	0.40
	Scotland Development (Highway 24) + (9.47 ha of Open Green Space)	Scotland	0.80
	Oakland Road	Oakland	0.53
71 & 72	TCA Lands + (12.8 ha of Open Green Space)	Paris	1.26
	Burford Area – Ontario Inc.	Burford	1.21
	Scotland – Haley	Scotland	1.82

#	Commons & Urban Green Parks - 6 Parks	Location	Hectares
	Total Hectares – 1.12 ha		
43	Cenotaph War Memorial Park – St. George	St. George	0.11
9	Cenotaph War Memorial - Paris Cenotaph	Paris	0.09
10	Cobblestone Common	Paris	0.02
7	Garden of Hope	Paris	0.03
	St. George Parking Lot (Truck Tech)	St. George	0.16
57	Watt's Pond Greenway	Paris	0.71

#	Anticipated Commons & Urban Green Parks by 2051 - 1 Park	Location	Hectares
	Total Hectares – 0.04 ha		
60	King St. Parkette (Burford)	Burford	0.04

#	River Access Points - 3 Parks	Location	Hectares
	Total Hectares - 2.58 ha		
8	Penman's Dam Park	Paris	0.83
17	Bean Park	Paris	1.61
27	Eric Thomlinson Access Point / Wray and Marilyn Cline Park	Glen Morris	0.14

#	Anticipated River Access Points by 2051 - 1 Park	Location	Hectares
	Total Hectares - 1.44 ha		
73	Paris Grand Trails & River Access	Paris	1.44

#	Natural Areas & Open Green Space Parks - 13 Parks	Location	Hectares
	Total Hectares – 128.40 ha		
39	Jacob's Woods	St. George	4.84
	Distillery Trail (south-end Lions)	Paris	3.72
47	Mount Pleasant Nature Park	Mt. Pleasant	10.16
	Barker's Bush	Paris	43.57
	McEwan Tract	Mt. Pleasant	6.98
	Oakland Tract (Clayton Thompson Tract)	Oakland	1.21
	Oakhill Tract	Oakhill	4.45
	Mason Tract	Onondaga	2.29
	Williams Tract	Langford	10.33
	Blue Lake Tract	St. George	2.87
	McLean Tract	St. George	18.76
	Paris Grand Trails	Paris	12.43
	Pearson Tract	Glen Morris	6.79

#	Anticipated Natural Areas & Open Green Space Parks by 2051 - 3 Parks	Location	Hectares
	Total Hectares – 185.74 ha		
	Watts Pond Trails	Paris	21.74
	Paris Memorial Forest	Paris	32
74	North of the Nith	Paris	132

Anticipated Parkland & Open Green Spaces by 2051

Table 5: Anticipated Parkland & Open Green Spaces by Ward

#	Anticipated Parkland & Open Green Spaces by 2051	Parkland (Ha)	Open Green Space (Ha)
	Ward 1 – 3 Total Parks	**9.46**	**66.61**
61 & 62	Empire (231 Hwy 5 W & 205 Beverly St.)	2.58	11.15
63	Losani (210 Hwy 5 W to German School Rd.)	4.45	40.00
66 & 67	Stremma (269 German School Rd.)	2.43	15.46

#	Anticipated Parkland & Open Green Spaces by 2051	Parkland (Ha)	Open Green Space (Ha)
	Ward 2 & 3 – 11 Total Parks	**49.685**	**88.64**
68	Gurney (Pottruff Road) Sports Park (273 Pottruff Road)	16.03 + 23.32	
73	Paris Grand (Golf North) (11 Blaney St./110 Bendemere Road and Area)	3.59	22.10
58	Doug Hanna Park (Arlington Meadows) (7 Becker St.)	2.09	
70	Sifton (305 King Edward St. /Cleaver Rd.)	1.18	
71 & 72	TCA (Curtis Ave. S./SC Johnson Trail area)	1.255	12.80
69	Cedar North (Cordon) (708 Watts Pond Rd.)	1.92	
	Paris Memorial Forest (21 Ann Wilson Way)		32.00
59	Deer Ridge (Nith Peninsula) (124 Gort Ave.)	0.30	
57	Watts Pond Greenway (836 & 848 Watts Pond Rd.)		21.74
74	North of the Nith (40 Railway St.)		132.00

#	Anticipated Parkland & Open Green Spaces by 2051	Parkland (Ha)	Open Green Space (Ha)
	Ward 4 – 4 Total Parks	**27.074**	
	Scotland – Haley (29 13th Concession)	1.82	
	Burford Area	1.21	
60	King St. Parkette (125 King St.)	0.04	
65	Art Cadman Expansion (Gravel Pit - 80 Maple Ave)	24.00	

#	Anticipated Parkland & Open Green Spaces by 2051	Parkland (Ha)	Open Green Space (Ha)
	Ward 5 – 3 Total Parks	**1.73**	**9.47**
46	Mt. Pleasant Park Expansion (Burtch Rd.)	0.40	
	Scotland HWY 24 Area	0.80	9.47
	Oakland Area	0.53	

#	Anticipated Trails by 2051 - 10 Trails	Length (Meters)
	Total Meters – 18,350 Meters (18.3 Km)	
	Watts Pond Trail Phase 1 & 2	2,000
	Grandville	800
	Capron St.	750
48	Burford Community Centre Walking Trails	250
	Oakland Trail	350
73	Paris Grand	2,400
74	North of the Nith	7,000
	Barker's Bush	TBD
65	Art Cadman Expansion - Gravel Pit	2,300
	St. George North South	2,500


John St. Park, Burford, ON

County Wide Parkland Walkability Plan
Parkland Walkability in the County of Brant

The County boasts a network of parks designed with walkability in mind, particularly in denser communities. Many of these parks are conveniently located within a 400-800 meter radius, allowing residents to easily reach them on foot. This fosters a strong sense of community and encourages outdoor activity. However, the distribution of these valuable green spaces isn't uniform across the County.

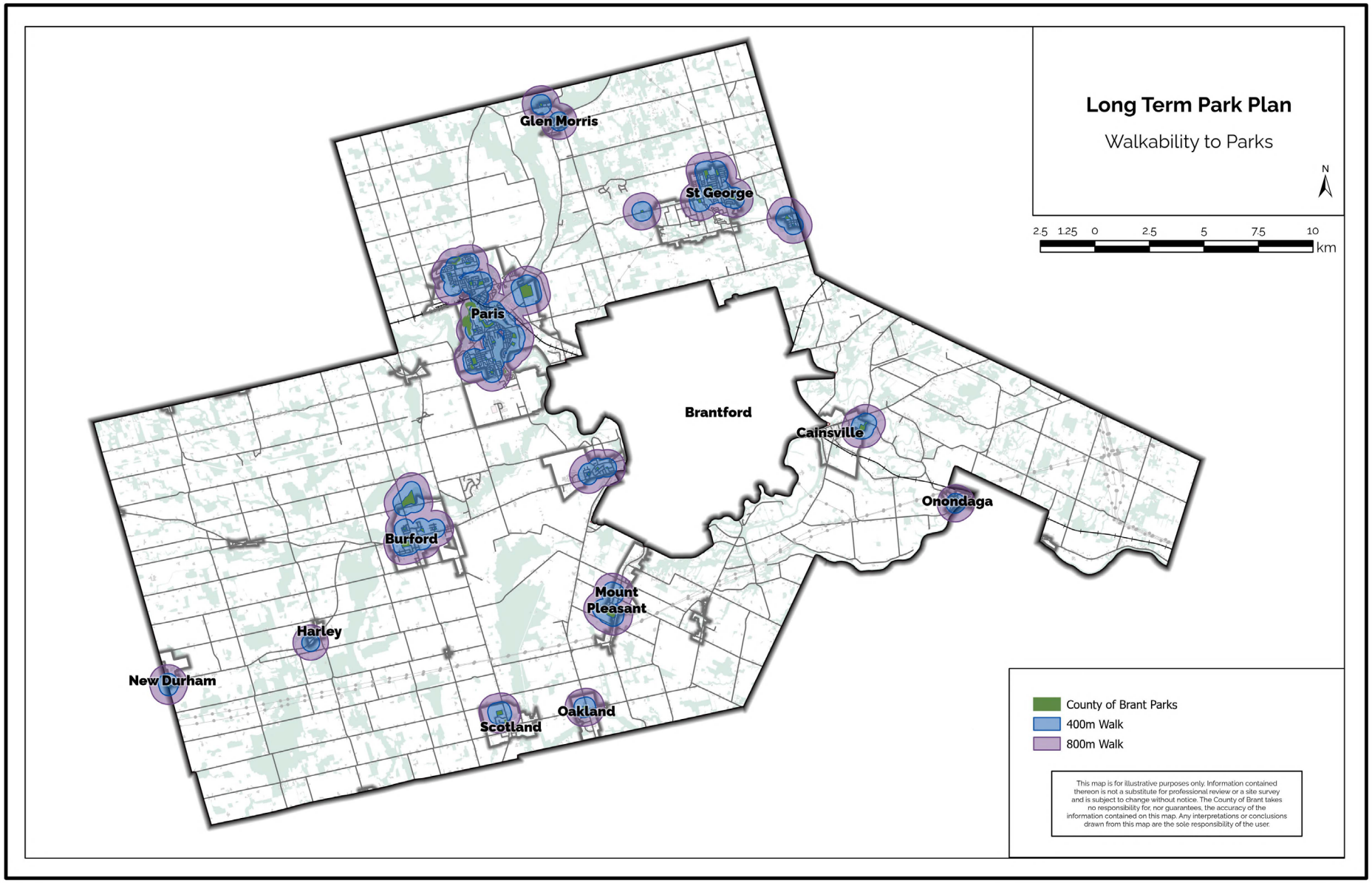
A key challenge lies in addressing the gaps where communities currently lack park access. Several factors contribute to this disparity. In some areas, the current population may not yet warrant a dedicated park. In others, the availability of suitable land for development might be limited. The sheer size and boundaries of certain communities can also pose logistical hurdles. Essentially, creating equitable access to parks across the entire County presents a complex planning puzzle.

The County is actively working to address these gaps, with plans underway to introduce new parks in strategic locations. These additions will significantly improve access for some communities. However, it's realistic to acknowledge that a deficiency will likely persist, particularly in more rural areas. While these rural communities may not have parks within immediate walking distance, they often benefit from nearby larger regional parks and conservation areas.

It's important to note that the character of these rural areas often necessitates a different approach to park access. Due to the distances involved, driving to a nearby park is frequently the most practical option for residents in these communities. This acknowledges the unique characteristics of rural living and the trade-offs involved.

For a more in-depth understanding of the specific areas affected, the planned park developments, and the County's service standards, please consult the Background Study & Service Standards Document. This document provides detailed information and context for the County's approach to park planning and development.

Figure 7: Parkland Walkability in the County of Brant



Section 6: Optimizing Park Facility Utilization



Rest Acres Ridge Park, Paris,

Section 6: Optimizing Park Facility Utilization

Park Facility Bookings

The below information displays usage of bookable park facilities from 2018 and 2022. The years primarily impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic were not included as trends and usage were impacted by rolling shut-downs in the Province. The park usage data and user group quantities have been analyzed to propose targeted parkland provisions to 2041, 2051 and general recommendations of the Plan.

Park & Facility Usage by Location:

Paris, ON

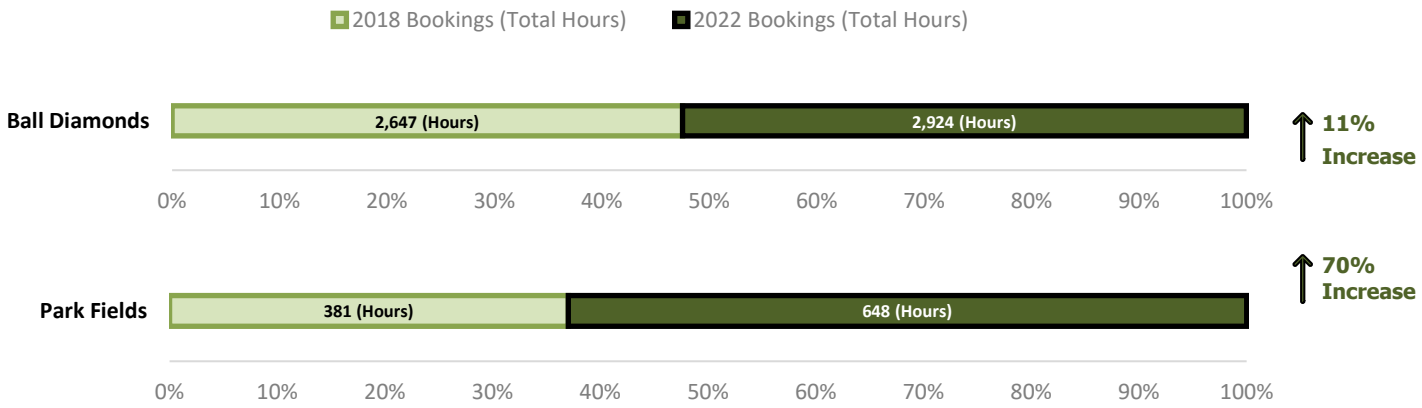
Ball diamond and park field bookings in Paris experienced notable growth between 2018 and 2022, reflecting increased demand for these recreational facilities.

In 2018, the total number of hours booked for Ball Diamonds was recorded at **2,647 hours**. By 2022, this number rose to **2,924 hours,** marking an increase of approximately **11%**. This growth suggests a rising interest in baseball and softball activities, driven by expanding local leagues, population growth or enhanced community programming encouraging residents to engage in organized sports.

Similarly, park field bookings, which include spaces used for activities such as soccer, football and other field sports, saw a significant increase. In 2018, Park Field bookings **totaled 381 hours**. By 2022, bookings reached **648 hours**—an increase of approximately **70%**. This dramatic rise could indicate a strong community interest in field sports, along with greater program offerings or a higher frequency of practices, games and community events.

These trends indicate a potential shift in recreational preferences within the community, with increasing interest in flexible park spaces that can accommodate diverse activities, while traditional ball diamond usage may be experiencing an increase.

Figure 8: Parkland Facility usage in Paris, ON



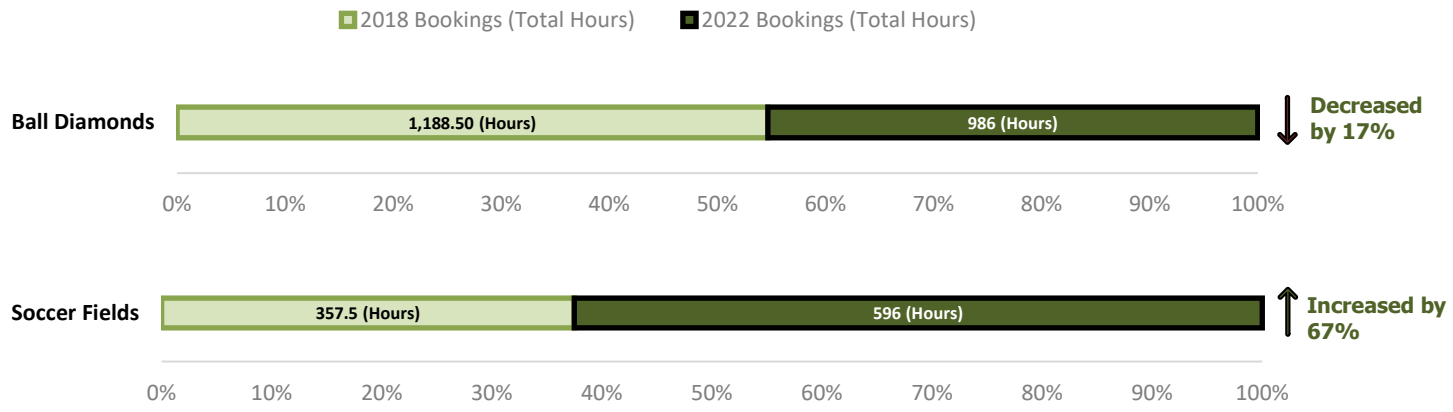
St. George, ON

Ball Diamond bookings in St. George for the same years shows relative stability. In 2022, ball diamonds were booked for **986 hours**, slightly lower than the **1,188.5 hours** recorded in 2018. This decrease of approximately **17%** suggests a steady level of engagement with ball diamonds, indicating a stable but consistent demand for these facilities. This stability could reflect the ongoing popularity of baseball and softball in the community, with no significant fluctuations in usage patterns over this period.

In St. George, an analysis of Soccer Field bookings reveals a substantial increase in usage over recent years. In 2022, soccer fields were booked for a total of **596 hours**, a significant rise from the **357.5 hours** recorded in 2018. This change represents an approximate **67%** increase in park field booking hours, suggesting a growing demand for recreational spaces in the community. This uptick could be attributed to various factors, including an increased population, a heightened interest in outdoor activities or enhanced park facilities and programming.

Together, these findings provide insight into recreational trends in St. George, highlighting a notable increase in overall park field usage alongside stable demand for ball diamonds. This information may support future planning and investment decisions, enabling more responsive management of St. George's recreational facilities.

Figure 9: Parkland Facility usage in St. George, ON




Arena Park - Gaukel Memorial Community Centre, St. George, ON

Burford, ON

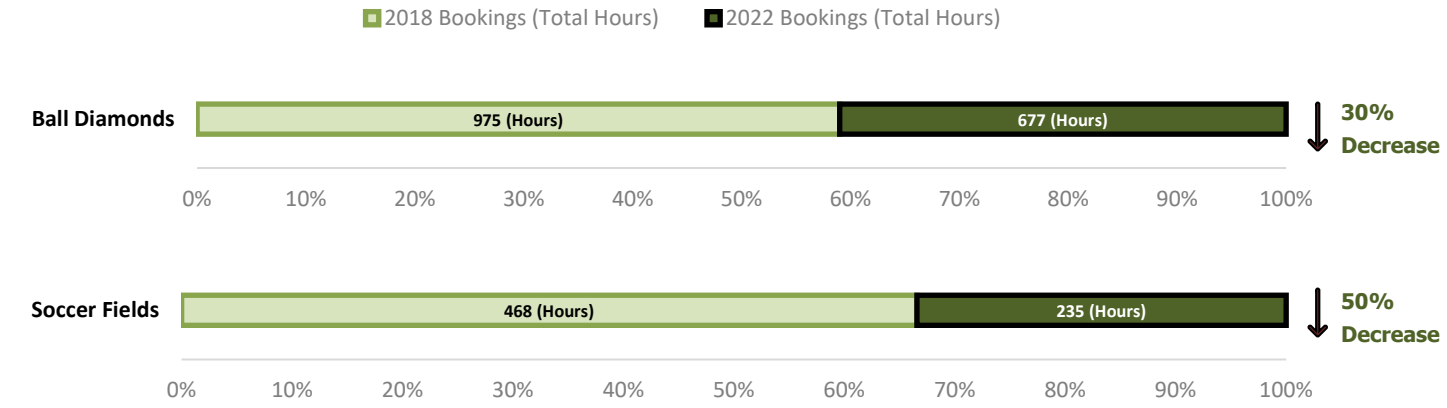
An analysis of recreational facility bookings in Burford, Ontario, for the years 2018 and 2022 reveals a significant decline in both ball diamond and park field usage over the four-year period.

In 2018, Ball Diamond bookings reached a total of **975 hours**, which by 2022 had decreased to **677 hours**. This reduction of 298 hours represents an approximate **30% decline** in the overall usage of these facilities. The decrease may reflect changing community needs or preferences, shifts in sports participation trends or external factors impacting recreational activities.

Soccer Field bookings also experienced a marked decrease. In 2018, the total number of booked hours was recorded at **468 hours**, which fell to just **235 hours** in 2022. This represents a drop of **233 hours** or approximately **50%**, nearly half of the 2018 usage levels. Such a sharp decline suggests a substantial shift in demand, possibly influenced by evolving recreational interests, seasonal factors or broader community dynamics.

This trend highlights the importance of monitoring facility usage over time to understand and respond to community needs. Declining bookings may prompt further analysis and community engagement to determine if adjustments to programming, facilities or marketing strategies are needed to support and revitalize interest in these recreational spaces.

Figure 10: Parkland Facility usage in Burford, ON





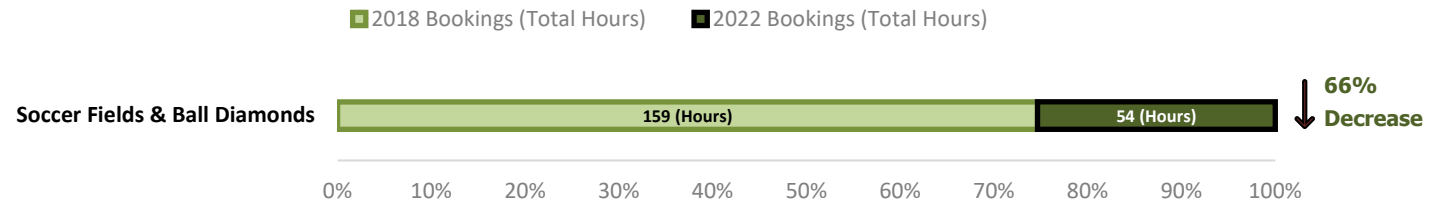
Burford Optimist and Lions Park - (Burford Community Centre), Burford, ON

Cainsville, Onondaga & Mt. Pleasant

Soccer Fields and Ball Diamond bookings in Cainsville and Onondaga experienced a decrease in usage between 2018 and 2022. In 2018, these facilities recorded a total of **159 hours** of bookings, while in 2022, this number declined to **54 hours**. This change represents an approximate **66% reduction** in booking hours over the four-year period. Of special note, the Mt. Pleasant Optimist Club runs a league for children in May and June once weekly and these bookings are not included in the statistics above.

This decline may reflect changes in seasonal weather events. Understanding trends can inform future strategies for park usage, community outreach and potential improvements to enhance facility utilization.

Figure 11: Parkland Facility utilization in Cainsville, Onondaga & Mt. Pleasant, ON



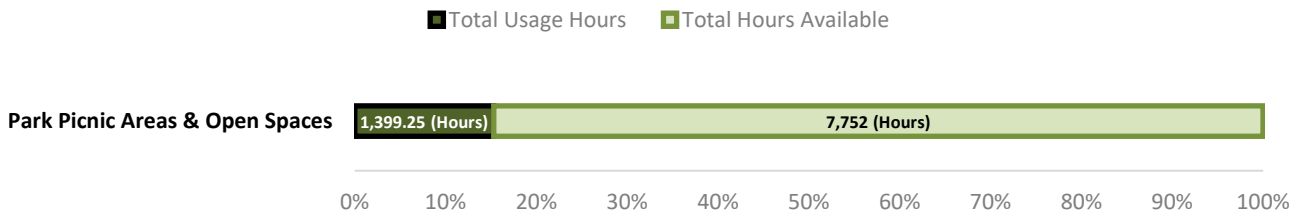

Onondaga Ball Park, Onondaga, ON

Picnic Areas

In 2023, the utilization of park picnic areas and open spaces in the County of Brant demonstrated a moderate level of community use, with a **total of 1,399.25 hours** booked out of **7,752 hours available**. Residents who utilized these spaces did so without booking the space, which is the main reason for the low hours booked. This usage represents about **18 %** of the potential capacity for these spaces, indicating room for further promotion and community outreach to maximize utilization.

The accompanying chart visually depicts this data, emphasizing the difference between actual usage and total availability. This percentage highlights both the popularity of the spaces and the potential to expand programming, events or seasonal activities to encourage greater use. Analyzing these figures can provide valuable insights into community preferences, peak usage times and areas for improvement in park space management and accessibility within the County.

Figure 12: Park Picnic Areas & Open Spaces utilization in the County of Brant in 2023.

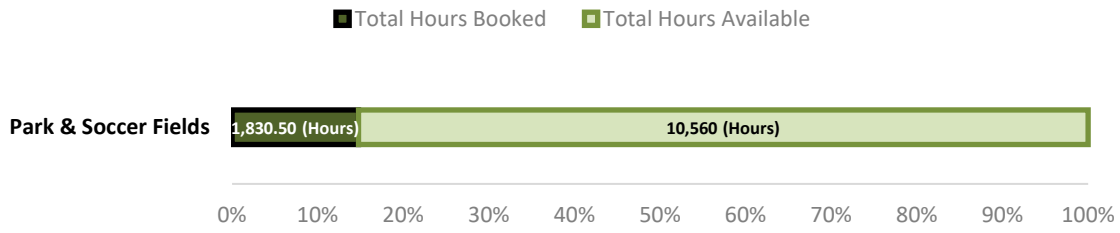


Soccer Fields

In 2023, the utilization of soccer fields in the County of Brant reflected a notable portion of available time booked but still revealed opportunities for greater community engagement. Out of **10,560 hours available** for bookings throughout the year, **1,830.50 hours** were reserved for various activities, meaning around **17%** of the total capacity was used. This utilization rate leaves approximately **83%** of the fields' total available hours not booked, suggesting potential for increased use.

The bar chart effectively visualizes this data, with the greater bar denoting **10,560** total available hours and the smaller bar indicating **1,830.50** booked hours. The total hours booked is only about a quarter of the overall available hours, highlighting the gap between potential and actual use. This data could inform future efforts to maximize the use of soccer fields by identifying peak demand periods and exploring targeted community programming, seasonal leagues, tournaments or rental promotions that encourage more frequent bookings.

Figure 13: Park & Soccer Fields Utilization in the County of Brant in 2023.

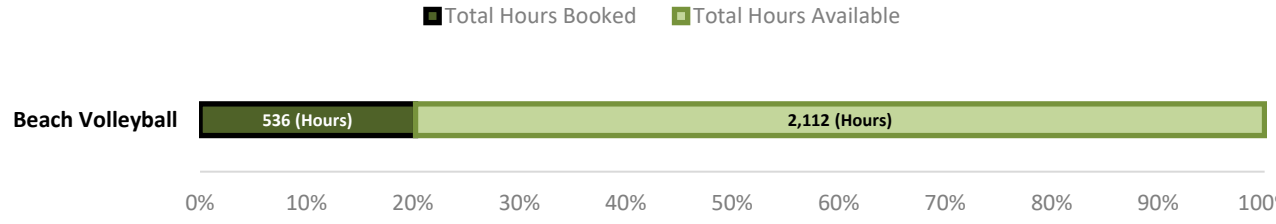


Beach Volleyball

In 2023, the beach volleyball courts at Green Lane Sports Complex in Paris saw a **total of 536 hours** booked out of a possible **2,112 available hours**, resulting in an average utilization rate of **25%**. This utilization rate suggests that about one quarter of the courts' capacity was used, leaving approximately **75%** of available hours unbooked.

This data highlights an opportunity to increase the courts' usage by exploring strategies to attract more community members and sports groups to these facilities. By analyzing factors such as peak usage times, public awareness and accessibility, the County could identify ways to boost engagement. Potential strategies might include promoting seasonal leagues, organizing beach volleyball tournaments, or offering special rates for group bookings, all of which could help to raise the utilization rate and maximize the value of these courts for the community.

Figure 14: Beach Volleyball utilization in the County of Brant in 2023.



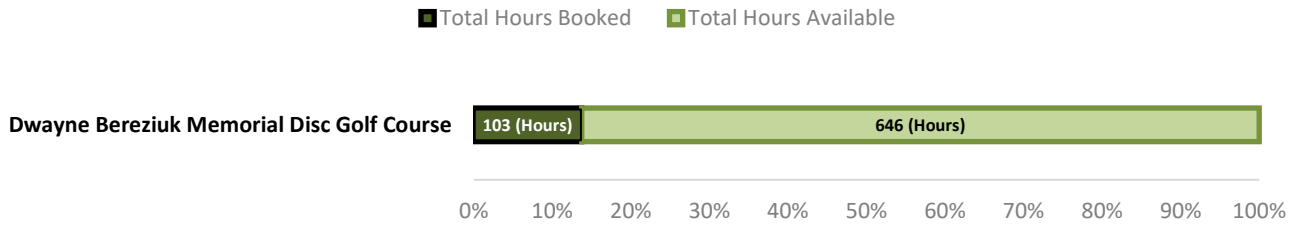

Beach Volleyball Court - Green Lane Sports Complex, Paris, ON

Disc Golf

The Dwayne Bereziuk Memorial Disc Golf Course, located at Green Lane Sports Complex in Paris, had a total of **103 hours of bookings** in 2023, compared to **646 available hours**. This equates to an average utilization rate of **16%**.

It's important to note that the usage hours recorded pertain only to organized events, as regular play is not formally booked or tracked. As such, these figures do not reflect the total amount of time the course was in use by casual players. Given that disc golf is a popular and accessible activity, the actual level of participation may be significantly higher, but regular play typically operates outside of the structured booking system.

Figure 15: Disc Golf utilization in the County of Brant in 2023.



Between November 2023 and November 2024, the disc golf course recorded a total of 13,092 plays, averaging 1,002 plays over a 28-day period. This level of activity reflects a strong and consistent interest in the course, highlighting its popularity within the community. Over the same timeframe, players accumulated a total of 20,026 recreation hours, with a 28-day average of 1,535 hours. These figures underscore not only the frequency of play, but also the substantial time invested by participants in enjoying the course.

In terms of usage, there was participation from 1,853 unique members, averaging 393 unique players every 28 days. This indicates a diverse and engaged player base, with individuals returning regularly to enjoy the sport. As for the physical activity involved, players collectively took almost 50 million steps, which breaks down to an average of 3.8 million steps over every 28-day period. This data highlights the health benefits associated with the sport, as participants are actively engaging in outdoor exercise.

In the past two years, the Dwayne Bereziuk course has consistently ranked as the second most-played disc golf course in Ontario, finishing just behind Barrie by fewer than 1,000 plays in both years. While this course continues to be a favourite among disc golf enthusiasts, the County will need to provide continual investment in maintenance and plan to add new courses in the area to attract local residents and visitors.

The course continues to receive excellent feedback from players and holds a 4.5-star rating out of 5 on UDisc, placing the Paris course in the top ten courses in Ontario. This high rating reflects the quality of the course, the maintenance efforts and the overall experience for those who visit. Recently, the course was named the top-rated course in Canada, placing third in Canada.

Ball Diamonds

This section offers a detailed comparison of the total booked hours and total available hours for various ball diamonds in the County of Brant during the year 2023. Over the course of the year, the total number of booked hours across all Ball Diamonds was **5,231.50**, while the total available hours for these facilities amounted to **14,740**. This resulted in an average utilization rate of **36%**, indicating that just over a third of the available playing time was used for scheduled bookings. The remaining **64%** of available hours were left unbooked, suggesting there is potential for increased usage.

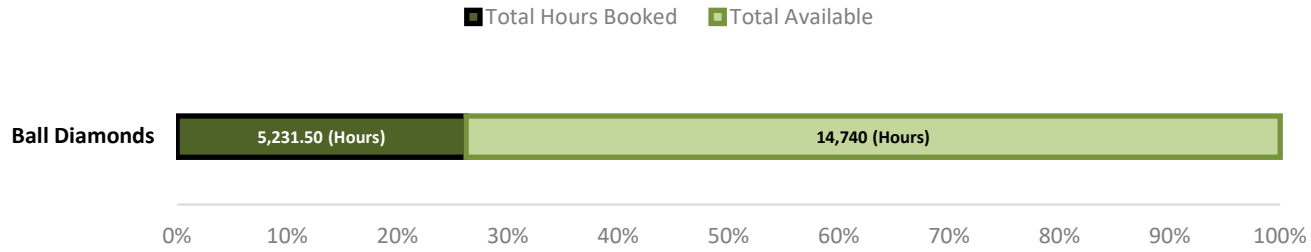
This analysis covers a range of baseball diamonds located across the County of Brant, each of which contributed to the total usage data. The specific diamonds included in this analysis are:

- **Burford Community Centre Diamonds**
- **Gaukel Memorial Community Centre/Arena Park Diamonds**
- **Paris Optimist Park Ball Diamond**
- **Green Lane Sports Complex Diamonds**
- **Harrisburg Ball Diamond**
- **King William Park Ball Diamond**
- **Mt. Pleasant Ball Diamond**
- **Paris Lions Park Pete Lavoie Diamonds (under the Paris Youth Softball Association agreement)**
- **Two Rivers Ball Diamond (under the PYSA agreement)**
- **Victoria Park Ball Diamond (under the PYSA agreement)**

Each of these facilities plays a role in offering recreational opportunities for local teams and leagues, and the collective data helps assess the overall usage and capacity of the County’s baseball infrastructure. The utilization rates at individual parks could vary depending on factors such as local demand, seasonality and community engagement.

Given that the average utilization rate is **36%**, there may be opportunities to increase engagement and boost bookings by targeting underused periods, promoting community events or leagues or exploring partnerships with local sports organizations. Additionally, understanding why **64%** of the available hours remained unused could help the County refine its strategies for improving facility usage and making the best use of public resources.

Figure 16: Ball Diamonds utilization in the County of Brant in 2023.



Park Bookings

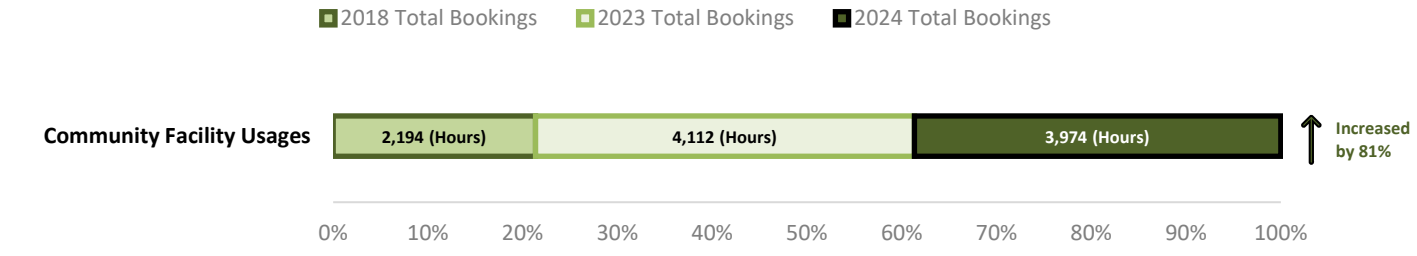
The analysis of total bookings for various park facilities from 2018 to 2024 reveals several key trends.

The highest number of bookings: The most significant increase occurred between 2018 and 2023, when bookings nearly doubled, reaching a peak of **4,112 bookings**. This marks an impressive **87% increase** over the **2,194 bookings** recorded in 2018. This growth indicates a strong upward trend in the demand for community facilities, possibly driven by factors such as population growth, expanded programming, or increased community engagement in local events and activities.

2024 bookings declined slightly: While 2023 represented a peak year in terms of total bookings, 2024 saw a slight **decrease to 3,974 bookings**. This is a **3% decline** from 2023. However, it is still a substantial **81% increase** compared to 2018, indicating that the overall trend remains positive despite the small dip. The decline could be attributed to various factors, such as changes in local event scheduling, external competition or external conditions (e.g. weather, availability of resources).

Overall, a significant increase: Even with the slight dip in 2024, the overall trend from 2018 to 2024 shows a marked and consistent increase in community facility bookings. This reflects the growing demand for recreational, cultural and social events in the County of Brant. The increase in bookings also suggests that the community is increasingly utilizing these facilities for a wide range of activities, from sports and fitness programs to cultural events, festivals and private gatherings.

Figure 17: Community Facility Bookings in the County of Brant from 2018 to 2024.




Community Facility Bookings - Disc Golf at Green Lane Sports Complex, Paris ON

Adult & Youth Group Registrations

This section provides a detailed comparison of participation trends in sports league registrations from 2017 to 2022, examines the fluctuations in the number of participants over this six-year period and highlights key observations.

Key Observations:

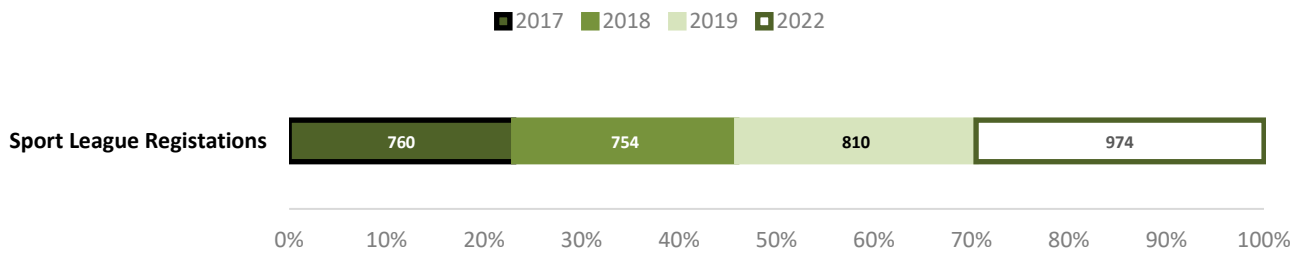
2017 was the peak year: The highest number of sports league registrations occurred in 2017, with a total of **760 participants**. This year represents the peak for this period, reflecting the highest level of community engagement and interest in sport leagues. Several factors, such as effective promotion, new league offerings, or community enthusiasm, may have contributed to this surge in registrations.

2018 saw a slight drop: Registrations fell in 2018 to **754 participants**, marking a **1% decrease** from the previous year. This slight drop may have been influenced by various factors, such as changes in community interest, external events (e.g., economic downturns, competing activities), or structural shifts within the leagues. It is also possible that some leagues faced challenges in attracting or retaining participants due to factors like schedule conflicts, facility availability or other logistical concerns.

2019 saw a modest increase: After the slight decline in 2018, the number of registrations increased in 2019, reaching **810 participants**. This represents a modest **7% growth** from 2018, suggesting a small recovery in interest and participation. While the growth was incremental, it could indicate a gradual return of confidence in the leagues or a change in league offerings that better aligned with community needs. This uptick could also reflect a stabilization period following the previous year's drop.

2022 saw a recovery: Registrations saw a more substantial recovery in 2022, rebounding to **974 participants**, marking a **20% increase** from 2019. This recovery indicates a renewed interest in sport leagues and could reflect broader trends such as improved community engagement, post-pandemic recovery or changes to league structures that better addressed participant preferences. The 2022 recovery also suggests that the leagues were able to regain momentum and capture the attention of participants who may have taken a break in earlier years.

Figure 18: Sport League Registrations from 2017 to 2022 in the County of Brant.



Tournaments & Sporting Events

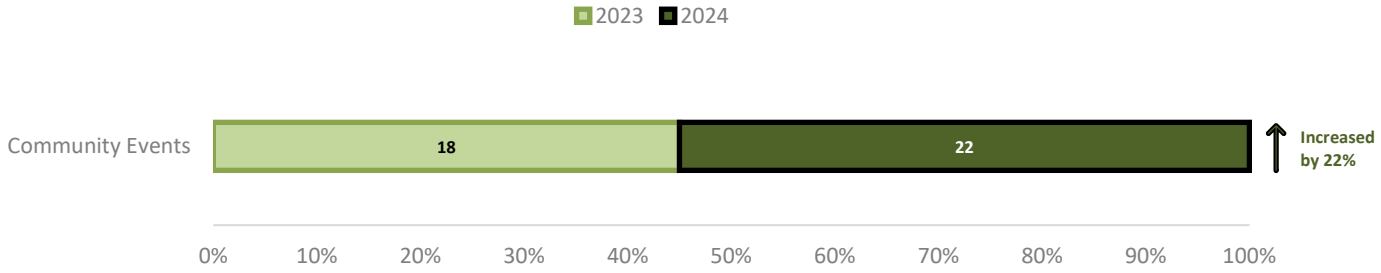
Some of the community events that took place in the County in 2023 and 2024 included tournaments, festivals and family community events such as Touch-A-Truck.

Key Observations:

- **Increase in Community Events:** The number of community events increased from 18 in 2023 to 22 in 2024, representing a 22% increase.
- **Slo-Pitch Tournaments:** The most popular is represented by 33% of all Tournaments
- **Ball Tournaments:** The second most popular, representing 29% of all tournaments.
- **Soccer Tournaments:** The third most popular, representing 21% of all tournaments.

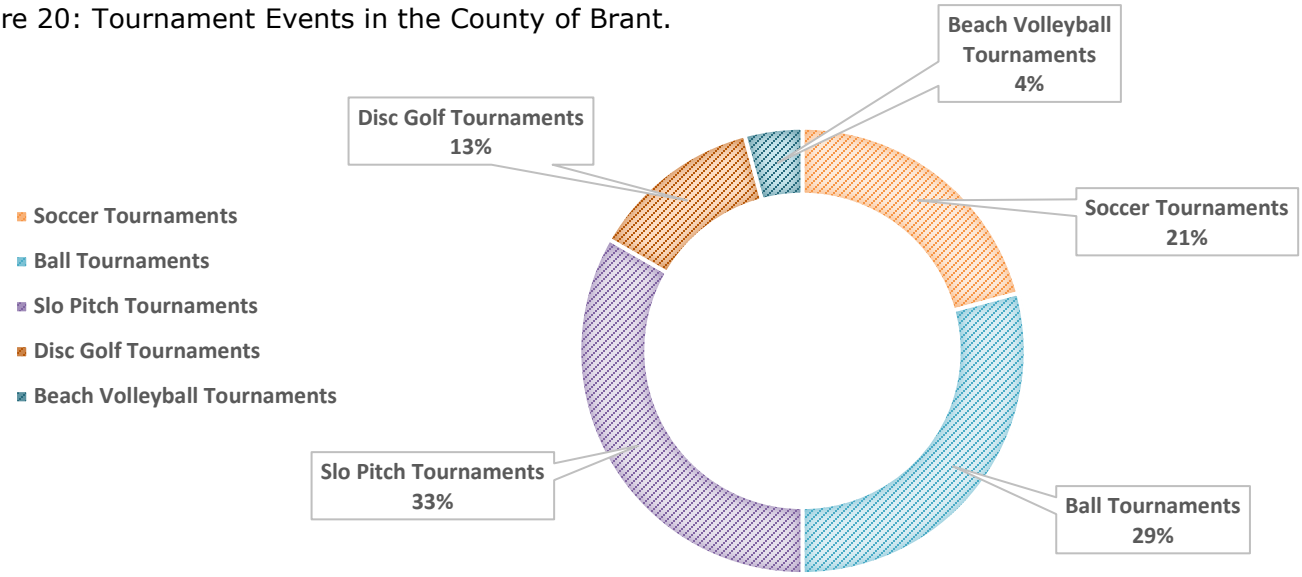
Overall, the data suggests a growing interest in community events and tournaments in the County of Brant.

Figure 19: Community Events in the County of Brant including Tournaments, Festivals and Family Community Events from 2023 to 2024

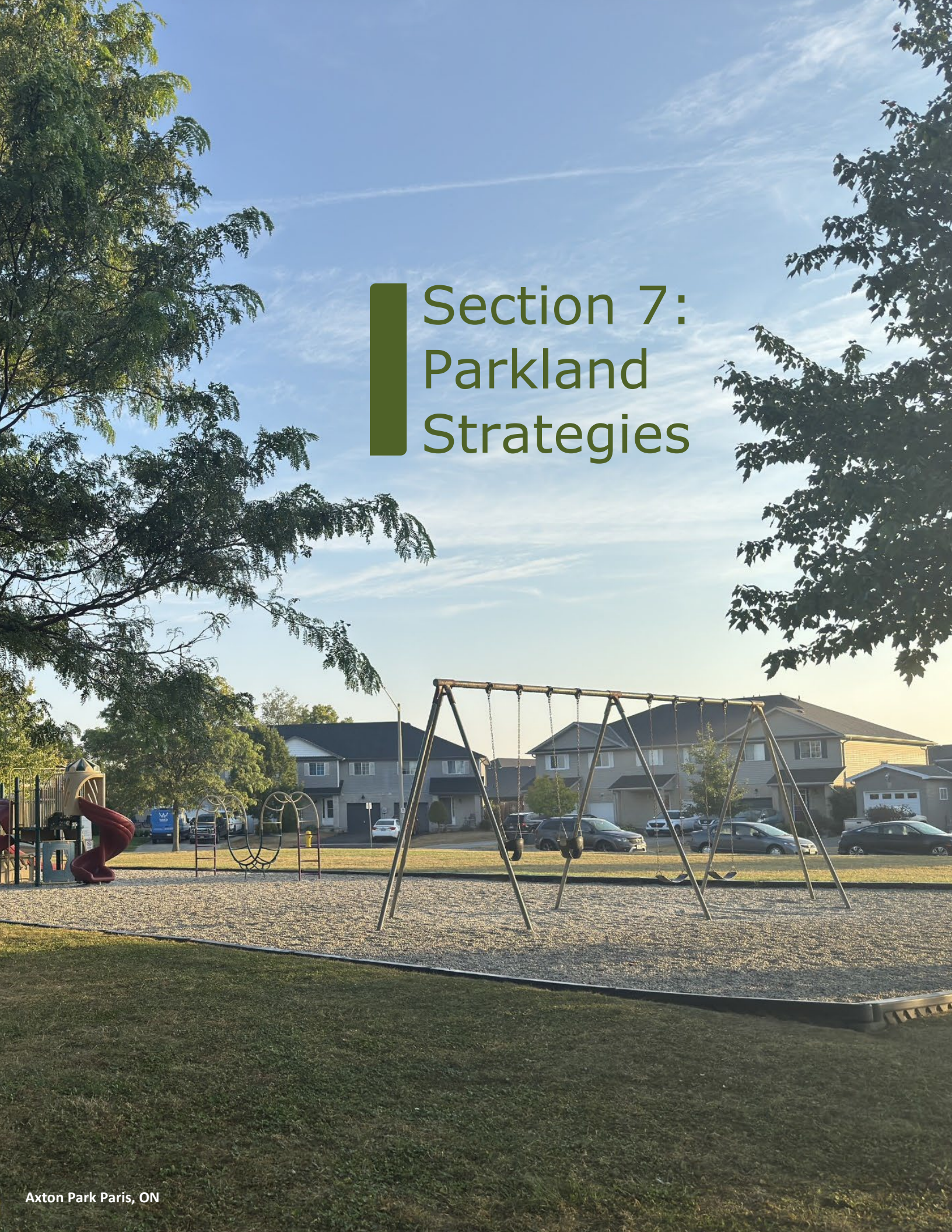


Tournament Events

Figure 20: Tournament Events in the County of Brant.



Section 7: Parkland Strategies



Axton Park Paris, ON

Section 7: Parkland Strategies

Parkland Provision Strategy

The Parkland Dedication By-Law No. 31-22 implements Cash-in-Lieu of parkland or land dedication (or conveyance) requirements for parks from land development, redevelopment or subdivision creation. It sets dedication rates for different types of development, such as a consent, draft plan of subdivision or condominium for park or other public recreational uses. Each municipality's Parkland Dedication By-Law details specifically how the municipality will collect parkland or cash-in-lieu of parkland.

There is a need for additional parkland to meet the standards and expectations is outlined in Sections 4 and 5. The County's parkland provision strategy focuses on retention, optimization and acquisition. In growing areas, the dedication of parkland from development should continue to be the County's primary method for parkland acquisition. As identified in Section 2, in accordance with the Planning Act and the County of Brant's Parkland Dedication By-Law, conveyance of land or cash-in-lieu (CIL) is required for all applicable development within the County.

When cash-in-lieu is taken instead of land, the money can be spent only for the acquisition of land to be used for park or other public recreational purposes, including the construction, improvement, or repair of buildings and the acquisition of machinery for park or other public recreational purposes.

In cases where a proposed development is too small to result in a useful park parcel or where the immediate area already has suitable and unimpeded access to sufficient parkland, the County may consider accepting CIL to put towards future acquisition or development as supported by the Official Plan. It should be acknowledged that appropriately sized, located and configured properties ensure that municipal resources are utilized effectively and efficiently, while accommodating a range of parkland types.

In gap areas, alternate strategies for securing parkland beyond dedication may be required, such as shared use agreements, long-term leases, covenants, land exchanges and outright acquisition (supplemented by CIL of parkland dedication reserves). Opportunities for the dedication of meaningful park parcels (or CIL) should continue to be maximized.

Although hazard lands or open space are not included in the calculation for parkland dedication, the County may choose to acquire these lands to protect them and keep them in public ownership. In areas where development is restricted or prohibited due to linkages to the Natural Heritage System, rivers, wetlands or archaeological finds, the County utilizes these lands to expand recreational opportunities through sustainable trail development and linkages where feasible. Stewardship of these lands is an important role of the Community Services Department.

At the core, the Parkland Dedication By-law follows the principle that growth pays for growth, offsetting the increased pressures that new development will place on existing infrastructure and community amenities. To ensure equity and accountability, the requirements of these by-laws must be such that they reflect a reasonable standard that can be expected by each new development project, relative to the demand they create.

With the approval of the 2023 Official Plan and recent Provincial Changes, the County has the legislative requirement to update its Parkland Dedication By-Law to reflect parkland needs of the 2023 Official Plan's horizon to 2051.

Parkland Dedication for Parks and Recreation Facilities

Although this plan focuses on parkland, some of the parkland dedication cash-in-lieu reserves may be utilized for recreational facilities. The development of these facilities offers well-rounded recreational opportunities for all-season use.

Parkland Dedication Overview
Current By-Law Collection Methods:
• Where cash is taken in lieu of parkland, the maximum amount is calculated based on the rate of one hectare per 600 dwelling units. • Not exceeding 2% of land area in the case of commercial or industrial development. • Not exceeding 5% of land area in the case of all other types of development.

- For residential purposes, the Act permits municipalities to utilize 5% of land area OR an alternative requirement of conveyance based on a maximum rate of 1 hectare for every 600 dwelling units, subject to enabling policies within the approved local Official Plan.

- Residential consent applications at the approved per lot rate for Cash-in-Lieu (CIL) of parkland, which is deposited to a reserve fund for later use of approved parks and recreation projects.

Retention of Existing County-Owned Parkland

Given the need for future parkland, the County must protect the investments that it has made into existing parkland. Existing parkland shall retain active recreation as its primary function and shall not be sold or built on except facilities that serve a parks and recreation function. Uses such as stormwater management, commercial purposes and commuter parking will not be considered as serving a parks and recreation function. This land is required to help meet the provision level targets for parks throughout the County. To address a growing population, the quality, accessibility and sustainability of existing parkland is to be enhanced where a need is identified and where space and funds are available.

Disposal of County-Owned Land

When County-owned lands are deemed surplus, a public process is enacted for disposal. It is the policy of the County to require that the disposal of surplus real property be undertaken in a transparent and accountable manner that maximizes the social, economic, environmental and cultural return to the County. The disposal of surplus real property shall be implemented in a manner consistent with the Official Plan's vision, objectives and policies. Where appropriate, the disposal of County-owned lands shall be used to benefit and move forward the County's parkland assets.

Targeted Land Acquisition

Given the difficulties of acquiring sufficient parkland supply through the land use planning process and redevelopment in existing neighbourhoods, targeted real estate acquisitions may be required to address future parkland deficiencies. It is recommended that a real estate acquisition strategy be developed and that it focuses on wards and neighbourhoods with the greatest need. When opportunities arise to enlarge existing parks and create new ones, CIL can be used strategically for these acquisitions.

Parkland Dedication Recommendations

Recommendations	Time Frame
52. Review and update the existing by-law and update the Parkland Dedication By-law when new updates occur.	
1. Ensure the current by-law aligns with the County's Official Plan and other relevant policies.	Short
2. Update the by-law to reflect provincial legislation or regulations changes, and inclusion of community charge calculations.	Short
3. Consider any changes in development trends, population growth projections and recreational needs within the County.	Short
4. Develop a Parkland Acquisition Strategy	Short
53. Establish clear and equitable dedication requirements.	
5. Determine the appropriate amount of parkland to be dedicated per development unit. This can be based on a percentage of the gross land area or a fixed amount per residential unit. To encourage the supply of affordable and rental housing: • Non-profit housing developments are exempt from development charges, and parkland dedication • Affordable and select attainable residential units are exempt from development charges, and developments that include this type of housing are subject to reduced parkland dedication (effective June 1, 2024) • Purpose-built rental units receive discounts on development charges of up to 25% for family-friendly units	Medium
6. Consider factors such as the density of development, the type of development (residential, commercial, industrial) and the availability of existing parkland in the area.	Short Medium
7. Provide flexibility for developers to meet the parkland dedication requirements through alternative methods, such as cash-in-lieu payments or the development of off-site parkland.	Short Medium
8. Work with Policy Planning Division to update the Parkland Acquisition Strategy in accordance with insights that might emerge from a Parkland Acquisition Strategy study or other similar inputs or approaches.	Medium

54. Implement effective monitoring and enforcement mechanisms.	
9. Establish a system for tracking parkland dedication requirements and ensuring compliance.	Short Medium
10. Develop clear guidelines for reviewing and approving parkland dedication plans and implement penalties for non-compliance with the by-law.	Short Medium
11. Consider creating a dedicated staff position to oversee development applications, parkland dedication and management.	Long
55. Consider the long-term management and maintenance of parkland.	
12. Develop a comprehensive parkland management plan that outlines the long-term goals and strategies for the maintenance and improvement of parkland.	Short Medium
13. Establish dedicated resources and base funding for parkland maintenance and development.	Medium
14. Consider partnerships with community organizations and volunteers to support parkland management.	Medium

Alternate Strategies for Parkland Provision

This section outlines parkland acquisition tools and alternate public realm options that can supplement the County's existing toolkit. While some of these tools may work better than others, the County will likely have to become more creative and flexible to ensure parkland provision rations are maintained over the long-term.

Provisioning and acquisitions tools used in comparable municipalities are as follows:

Shared Use Agreements & Easements

An agreement with a landowner to allow public access to an existing open space (that is not owned by the municipality) for recreational or mobility purposes. Typically, these agreements and easements are applied to other forms of 'open space' to increase use and access, like schoolyards use outside of school hours and pathways along hydro and utility corridors.

Specific legal agreements will need to be executed with landowners to allow their land for public open space purposes, especially if there is public infrastructure on site. Municipalities that use this include the City of Hamilton, City of Burlington, Town of Milton, and the City of Guelph.

Privately-Owned Public Space (POPS)

POPS are privately owned publicly accessible spaces such as urban spaces like plazas on private land. POPS emerge through the development process, often as part of site plans and plans of condominiums and may provide an open space function when land acquisition for parks is challenging and/or in areas undersupplied with parks.

In practice, POPS can be a useful tool in providing smaller, urban-style, spaces. There are, however, limitations to using POPS as a tool for parkland acquisition. The two challenges with POPS are:

- The lack of County ownership and control of the land over the long term.
- Developers may provide land that is more beneficial to the development itself rather than providing appropriate parkland to service the needs of the neighbourhood and wider community.

An amendment to the Parkland Dedication By-Law and the County's Official Plan to address POPS would be required. As part of implementing the new Official Plan, the County plans to transition from a Zoning By-Law to a Community Planning Permit System, which could provide opportunities to integrate provisions

on high quality privately-owned open spaces as part of private development. The County will need to establish design and operations guidelines to support this class of open space. Legal agreements will also be required between the landowner and the County to ensure public access and maintenance are maintained during the development's life. Municipalities that use this tool include the City of Burlington, City of Mississauga and City of Waterloo.

Repurposing of Surplus Municipal Lands

Repurposing surplus municipal lands may be a strategy employed for parkland conversion. In areas with a substantial parkland deficit, converting existing municipal lands can enhance the urban forest canopy cover through reforestation and supply additional recreational greenspace.

An assessment of County-owned underutilized lands will be needed to address parkland provision gaps. Zoning and Official Plan changes may be required to accommodate activities on the repurposed lands. Municipalities that use this tool include the City of Guelph, City of Ottawa and Town of Milton.

Off-Site Park Conveyance by Negotiation

Off-Site Park Conveyance enables developers to provide required parkland by dedicating land at another location owned by the developer. This may be used when incompatible surrounding uses and area constraints deem onsite parkland dedication not feasible. Rather than provide cash-in-lieu, a developer may be able to provide parkland dedication from other land that they own. This could benefit all parties if the alternative location is suitable for the County.

One drawback is that there still may be a strong need to acquire parkland within the community of the proposed development, and thus, this new dedication should ideally be in close proximity to the proposed development. The Parkland Dedication By-Law and the County's Official Plan outlines off-site dedication. Municipalities that use this tool include the Town of Milton and City of Vaughan.

Partnership Opportunities

The County has been successful in fostering many agreements for the benefit of residents through land transfers, donations, maintenance and use agreements, property sales and relationship building with private landowners. These agreements are deemed of high-value to the parks and open space system. Working with partners for the conservation and preservation of natural areas increases habitat protection, provides ecological benefits and contributes to the betterment of the overall parks/open space system.

The County has existing partnerships with the following agencies/groups:

- School boards – Joint Use Facilities Agreements (JUFA)
- Long Point Region Conservation Authority (LPRCA) – Environmental programs
- Scotland Optimist Club– Funding for maintenance and shared use of the Scotland Optimist Park
- Mt. Pleasant Optimist Club – Maintenance agreement for the Mt. Pleasant Nature Park
- Early ON – Facility provision for programs
- Paris Soccer Clubs - use of fields owned by the Paris Soccer Club for summer camp programs
- Capital improvements in Parks by service clubs, including but not limited to, St. George Lions, Paris Lions, Burford Lions, Paris Optimist, Burford Optimist, Glen Morris Lions, South Brant Lions and Kiwanis of Paris-Brant
- St. George Lions Club – owns Elliott Field but is scheduled and maintained in part by the County
- Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) – Earth Week, SC Johnson Trail, North of the Nith property, environmental programs and maintenance agreements
- Infrastructure Ontario – LE&N Trail - lease of former rail corridor
- Brant Waterways Foundation – Construction of assets, improvements to trails, river access
- Paris and Burford Fairgrounds – Grants provided for operation, community use
- Sports Organizations
- Safe Zone – Provision of facilities for programs

Community Planning Permit System

To implement the County Official Plan, the County plans to transition from a Zoning By-Law to a Community Planning Permit System. A Community Planning Permit System is one size fits all tool to address community needs and values such as supporting compact built form, facilitating a high standard of design including parks and community amenities, and protecting the environment. The Community Planning Permit System combines many planning processes in one including zoning, site plan and minor variances in addition to site alteration and vegetation removal allowing a municipality to implement a complete and healthy communities framework.

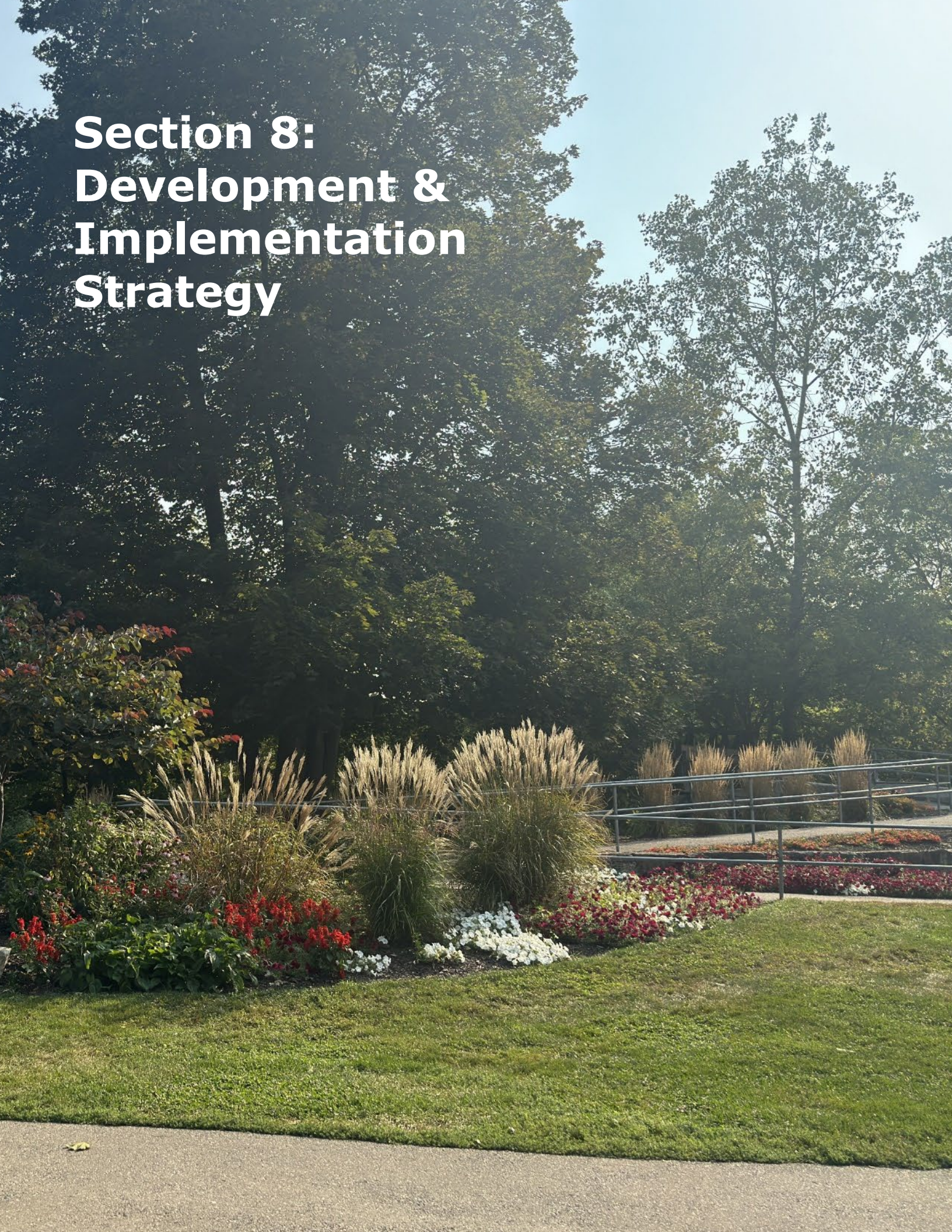
Through a Community Planning Permit By-law, conditions of approval and agreements can be used to secure community benefits. Public art, public parks and open spaces are among those benefits. Conditions may be applied within a Community Planning Permit area in exchange for facilities, services and matters relating to the Parks Master Plan. The Community Planning System may integrate urban design guidelines and requirements for private and public open spaces.

These community benefits are enabled through the *Planning Act* and Ontario Regulation 173/16, which authorize a Community Planning Permit By-law to require specified facilities, services and matters as conditions of approval. This legislative framework allows the County to secure improvements such as public parks, open spaces and other elements identified in the Parks Master Plan in exchange for additional height or density. By applying these conditions within a Community Planning Permit area, the County can ensure that new development contributes meaningfully to the open space network and supports the broader goals of the Parks Master Plan.

Community Planning Permit System Recommendations

Recommendations	Reasons for Implementation	Time Frame
56. Work with the Policy Planning Division to prepare a Community Planning Permit System	• Collaboration with the Policy Planning Division is essential for the successful implementation of a Community Planning Permit System (CPPS). • This partnership ensures alignment with overarching development objectives, optimizes the utilization of technical expertise and resources, fosters community engagement, mitigates adverse impacts, and facilitates comprehensive monitoring and evaluation. • By working in concert, municipalities can cultivate communities that are more equitable, sustainable, and resilient.	Short Medium

Section 8: Development & Implementation Strategy



Section 8: Development & Implementation Strategy

Parks Implementation Strategy & Action Plan

This implementation strategy for the Parks Master Plan is intended to systematically evaluate and monitor the progress of the recommendations detailed within the plan. The County of Brant will employ this strategy on an annual basis to assess the status of each item, thereby ensuring that the recommendations are effectively incorporated into the operational plans.

Key elements of the Parks Implementation Strategy & Action Plan include:

Projected Timeline: The recommendations from the Parks Master Plan will be implemented according to a detailed timeline divided into three phases:

- **Short-Term** (1-2 Years): Immediate Actions: High-priority projects that require swift implementation to address critical needs, such as safety hazards, accessibility issues or urgent maintenance.
- **Medium-Term** (3-5 Years): Strategic Planning: In-depth planning and analysis to develop long-term strategies for park development and management.
- **Long-Term** (6-10 Years): Visionary Goals: Long-term aspirations for the park system, including major expansions, innovative programming and sustainable practices.

Leading Departments and Divisions: Departments or divisions within the County of Brant organization that may hold primary responsibility for the implementation of the specified recommendation, ensuring its execution aligns with the project timeline established for the County of Brant.

Capital Funding and Staff Resources: The Parks Implementation Strategy and Action Plan require adequate capital funding for infrastructure projects, facility enhancements and equipment acquisitions. In order to effectively meet and exceed the recommendations outlined in this plan, it is imperative to secure support from either capital funding or personnel resources.

Recommendations Goals Overview

1. **Expand Parkland in High-Growth Areas:** Paris, St. George and growing settlement areas.
2. **Develop Multi-Use Parks:** Focus on parks that cater to both recreational needs (sports fields) and passive uses (playgrounds, picnic areas).
3. **Improve Accessibility:** Ensure parks are usable by individuals of all abilities, particularly older adults.
4. **Optimize Scheduling:** Introduce flexible field booking systems to avoid overuse and maximize park availability.
5. **Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Resiliency:** Prioritize eco-friendly initiatives such as tree planting and reducing mown areas. Explore ways to adapt to the impacts of our changing climate.
6. **Address Parkland Deficiencies:** Focus on developing parks in areas lacking sufficient parkland. Retrofit and improve parks in rural and underserviced areas.

Parks Implementation Strategy & Action Plan Recommendations

Recommendation	Methods & Strategies	Timeline	Key Departments	Capital / Staff Resources
Creating and Connecting Quality Park Spaces				
1. Emphasize the creation of connected trails, active transportation facilities, and additional parks to enhance access to green spaces in areas that are lacking.	1. Ensuring that investments are in infrastructure that support the future needs of active transportation (such as bikes lanes and pedestrian-friendly streets).	Medium - Long	Long-Term Capital Planning Operations	Capital Funding
2. Provide diverse and appropriate parks and amenities to meet the changing needs of current residents and forecasted community growth.	1. Better engagement with communities on ensuring park needs are met when a new development is moving forward. 2. Creating a long-term plan which paves the path for parks which then outlines goals, priorities and implementation strategies. 3. Look at conducting needs assessments that focus on community feedback, which will provide a better understanding of the current and future needs.	Short Medium Medium	Long-Term Capital Planning	Capital Funding
3. Prioritize regular investments for the maintenance and rehabilitation of park assets.	1. Exploring grant opportunities.	Short – Long	Long-Term Capital Planning	Capital Funding

	2. Creation of maintenance program which implements a routine of inspection and maintenance tasks to avoid escalation.	Short		
4. Evaluate the current overall usage of park facilities bookings for sports fields to ascertain whether they are being underutilized or overutilized. • This analysis will enable the County of Brant to enhance the optimization of future booking allocations.	1. Improving the overall booking experiences and offering incentives for bookings during off-peak hours. 2. Reaching out to residents who use the spaces to get their preferences to better understand if there are any barriers when using that space.	Short Short	Recreation & Facilities Business Services	Staff Resources
5. Implement strategic placement of signage, accessible wayfinding, and interpretive features.	1. Ensuring that the signs are easy to read and understand, even for people with disabilities, adding features can help residents better understand the information shown. 2. Place signs in areas considered high traffic, as people are more likely to see them.	Short to Medium Short to Medium	Outdoor Recreation Facilities, Parks & Trails Long-Term Capital Planning Forestry and Horticulture	Capital Funding
6. Meet a parkland provision target of 4.50 hectares per 1000 residents.	1. Purchase land suitable for park development. 2. Collaborate with	Long	Long-Term Capital Planning Policy Planning	Capital Funding / Staff Resources

	other organizations, such as conservation groups or private landowners, to create or expand new parks.	Medium - Long		
7. Develop a Parkland Acquisition Strategy	1. Work with Policy Planning to develop the framework.	Short	Long-Term Capital Planning Policy Planning	Capital Funding / Staff Resources
8. Regularly Update the Parkland Acquisition Strategy	2. Work with the policy planning division to gather insights from the study and apply new approaches that may emerge.	Medium	Long-Term Capital Planning Policy Planning	Staff Resources
Protecting, Preserving & Enhancing Natural Splendor				
9. Preserve natural ecosystems by conserving, restoring and expanding habitats, fostering reclamation, integrating nature into new developments, and advocating for sustainable methods to enhance ecological diversity.	1. Recovering damaged ecosystems, such as through reforestation or wetland restoration. 2. Reclaiming disturbed lands, such as mining sites or brownfields, and turning them back into functional ecosystems.	Short Medium Long	Long-Term Capital Planning Forestry & Horticulture Outdoor Recreation Facilities, Parks & Trails Policy Planning	Capital Funding / Staff Resources
10. Identify priority areas for the establishment of natural spaces and urban forests to achieve the 30% canopy coverage as specified in the Climate Action Plan. This strategy will enable the expansion of green spaces, safeguard existing ecosystems, and facilitate the	1. Pinpoint priority areas for new natural spaces and urban forests. This targeted approach will expand green spaces, protect existing ecosystems, and restore damaged	Medium	Policy Planning Long-Term Capital Planning Forestry & Horticulture	Staff Resources Capital Funding

restoration of areas that have experienced degradation.	areas.			
Fostering Sustainability, Accessibility & Adaptability				
11. Address the challenges posed by climate change through the strategic development of resilient parks and trails.	1. Mitigating the impact of extreme weather events. 2. Reducing the overall carbon emissions that are being produced. 3. Ensuring that the public is aware and well educated. 4. Planting more trees and other vegetation.	Long Medium-Long Medium-Long Short	Long-Term Capital Planning Forestry & Horticulture Corporate Strategy Policy Planning	Capital Funding
12. Undertake naturalization and tree planting initiatives through public events, park planning, increasing operational efficiencies and community engagement and information sharing.	1. Continuation of organized events such as the tree planting days. 2. Reaching out and building partnerships with local organizations that involve communities coming together.	Short Medium - Long	Long-Term Capital Planning Forestry & Horticulture Communications	Capital Funding
13. Ensure park design incorporates AODA Built Environment standards.	1. By including park amenities and elements that are accessible to individuals of all abilities and are aimed at enhancing opportunities for community members to experience spaces using all senses.	Short	Long-Term Capital Planning Accessibility & Inclusion	Capital Funding

	2. Creating more calming spaces for people to connect with nature and be comfortable in public parks.	Short-Medium		
14. Prepare a Community Planning Permit System to be prepared to introduce Facilities, Services and Matters (FSM) to be collected with as per the needs of the Parks Master Plan.	1. Identifying community needs, potential benefits, and how the FSM will be implemented and managed. 2. Effective stakeholder engagement and transparent processes are crucial for successful implementation.	Short Short	Policy Planning Long-Term Capital Planning	Capital Funding
Diversity, Equity & Inclusivity				
15. Provide opportunities for fulsome engagement and input from all residents, including Indigenous peoples to ensure parks are designed to be welcoming, foster truth and reconciliation and maximize use.	1. Establish meaningful engagement channels 2. Prioritize Indigenous engagement 3. Ensure accessibility and inclusivity 4. Foster transparency and trust 5. Evaluate and adapt	Short - Medium Short Short Medium Medium-Long	Long-Term Capital Planning Communications Arts, Culture, and Heritage Tourism Recreation & Facilities Business Services	Capital Funding / Staff Resources

16. Facility provision standards for all amenities should be prioritized for implementation based on demonstrated needs as well as pivoting to accommodate new trends.	1. Host community meetings and workshops to discuss park priorities, gather feedback, and foster dialogue between residents and the Parks & Forestry Department. 2. Analyze data to identify peak usage times, popular activities, and areas of high demand.	Medium - Long Medium	Long-Term Capital Planning Outdoor Recreation Facilities, Parks & Trails Communications	Staff Resources
17. Identify underutilized areas and implement strategies to optimize recreational benefits for residents. Special attention should be given for shifting needs and newcomer customs and traditions practiced in parks.	1. To optimize recreational benefits, communities should first identify underutilized park areas through methods like community mapping, data analysis, and needs assessments.	Short - Medium	Long-Term Capital Planning Outdoor Recreation Facilities, Parks & Trails	Staff Resources
18. Plan to accommodate and support new festivals and events by including park amenities to facilitate traditional activities of various cultural groups.	1. Distribute online and paper surveys to residents and community organizations to gather data on preferred park amenities and cultural event interests. 2. Identify and preserve culturally significant sites and natural features	Short - Medium Medium	Long-Term Capital Planning Outdoor Recreation Facilities, Parks & Trails Communications Arts, Culture, and Heritage Tourism	Capital Funding / Staff Resources

	within County parks. 3. Design parks with flexible spaces that can be easily adapted for various cultural events and activities.	– Long Short-Medium	Recreation Programs and Services	
19. Enhance and improve communication of vital information regarding park locations and regulations by clearly presenting maps, guidelines, and reservation steps, ensuring visitors can easily find and utilize the parks and their offerings.	1. Communicate what mobile apps and social media channels can be utilized for easy access to park information on the go. This can include: • GPS navigation to park locations. • Real-time updates on park conditions (closures, weather alerts). • Ability to report issues (vandalism, safety concerns). 2. Install well-maintained signs at park entrances and throughout the park grounds. 3. Post updates on park events, closures, and maintenance.	Short Short - Medium Short	Long-Term Capital Planning Communications	Capital Funding / Staff Resources
20. Ensure CPTED (Crime Prevention through Environmental Design)	1. Conduct surveys and/or "Community Safety Walks" with	Medium - Long	Long-Term Capital Planning	Capital Funding

principles are included in park design to increase public safety and reduce the likelihood of crime.	park users and nearby residents to understand their perceptions of safety, concerns, and desired features. 2. Utilize design elements that encourage passive surveillance by residents and park users 3. Install adequate and consistent lighting in key areas, such as pathways, parking lots, and around restrooms. 4. Consider the use of surveillance cameras in high-risk areas, ensuring compliance with privacy laws and investigate the installation emergency call boxes in strategic locations throughout the park.	Short – Long Medium – Long Medium	Forestry & Horticulture Outdoor Recreation Facilities, Parks & Trails Communications Policy Planning Ontario Provincial Police	

Develop Strong Partnerships and Alliances				
21. Foster collaboration with service clubs, local organizations, and businesses to enhance recreational opportunities in parks and explore potential partnerships.	1. Explore opportunities for corporate sponsorships of park amenities, events, or programs. 2. Develop long-term partnerships that can sustain park improvements and programs over time.	Short Medium Long	Long-Term Capital Planning Outdoor Recreation Facilities, Parks & Trails Recreation Programs & Services	Staff Resources
22. Engage with the public and park users to identify and prioritize new amenities that align with the community's needs.	1. Ensure various methods are accessible to diverse populations, consider language barriers, disabilities, and access to technology. 2. Utilize Engage Brant platform for park planning, featuring maps, surveys, forums, and feedback forms.	Medium - Long Short	Long-Term Capital Planning Communications Environmental Planning Accessibility & Inclusion	Staff Resources

23. Regularly review and revise policies and fee schedules to facilitate the affordability and organization of small-scale outdoor events within the County.	1. Analyze application volumes 2. Identify cost recovery rates 3. Engage with event organizers, community groups, and local businesses to discuss concerns and gather input. 4. Encourage groups to become community partners to utilize benefits offered through the program for non-profit organizations, new emerging groups and long-standing sports and recreation agencies.	Medium - Long Medium Short Short	Long-Term Capital Planning Communications Policy Planning Outdoor Recreation Facilities, Parks & Trails Recreation Programs & Services	Capital Funding / Staff Resources

Funding the Parks Master Plan

Financial Implications Summary

The County will fund the capital construction of new parks, the redevelopment of existing parks, and the addition of new amenities using Development Charge funding, Community Planning Permit System, Cash-in-lieu of Parkland Dedication, Parks and Recreation Reserve Funds and Tax/Rate Support. Additional funding may be secured through grants and donations to match or maximize available funds. Each funding source has their own restrictions and application criteria.

Development Charge projects are projected at $29.5 million for the development of parks, trails, fleet and equipment requirements over the course of the DC study period until 2034. $15.1 million is calculated for the benefit to existing residents and will need to be funded through other sources. These numbers will increase to build-out based on indexing, the addition of future unknown projects and refined capital cost estimates which will be re-calculated closer to construction dates.

The current net operating budget for Parks and Forestry is **$2.2 million**. As more assets are built and acquired, the operating budget will need to keep pace with growth. Specialized staff resources will continue to be required as the municipality diversifies its portfolio of parks and recreation amenities. The current full time staff complement is **32 Staff** in the Community Services Department. Based on projected **population growth of 45%** and the **acquisition of 230.35 ha of land (**not including the additional Natural Area & Open Green Spaces of 425.12 ha), staff resources will need to be integrated and in sync with growth. Operational expenses will rise to meet customer demand and provide the necessary supplies, equipment and seasonal staff to service the new parks, trails and open spaces located throughout the County.

Park operations are currently divided in the County of Brant budget into nine different areas under the Parks & Forestry section of Community Services.

Park Operations & Capital Planning Projects

- Green Lane Park
- Trails
- Paris Parks
- Parks Capital Planning & Forestry
- Paris Riverfront Parks
- Brant West Parks
- Brantford, Oakland & Onondaga Parks
- South Dumfries Parks
- Horticulture

Parks Budget & Cost per Capita

Increases to parks operating budgets will be required in the future due to inflation in the costs of materials, equipment, fuel, contracted services and wages to support the County of Brant in achieving the service standards identified in this Plan to 2041 and 2051 to accommodate the growth of the community.

Additional staffing resources, maintenance costs, contracted services, equipment purchases and capital expenditures will be required to implement this plan. Detailed increases will be requested as part of the County of Brant's annual budget approval processes through Council. Offsets to these budget impacts include the funding strategies identified in Section 8 of this Plan as well as increases to user fees.

Below is a summary of the existing Parks, Trails & Forestry budget correlating to population.

Table 6: County of Brant Parks & Forestry Funding Overview.

2024 Budget (Parks, Trails, Forestry & Horticulture)	2024 Population
$2.2 million (52.94 Per Capita)	**41,970[1] (Estimated Projection 1)**

[1] Sourced from Brant Population 2024

Funding Mechanisms

Development Charges

Development Charge (DC) funding is growth-related, meaning the funding is collected because of new development and the resultant population increase in an area. The County collects DCs for a range of designated services to construct assets from increased needs for various services arising from development. Amongst the designated services is park development. However, DC funding cannot be used to fund the replacement of park features or amenities that are at end-of-life. This is because replacement of existing features is not considered growth-related. DC funding cannot be used for the acquisition of land for parks, but can be used for the acquisition of land for enclosed year-round public recreation buildings/structures.

Growth-related projects include the development of additional parks throughout the County, additional amenities (e.g. skate parks, courts, etc.), trails and recreational facilities plus equipment.

The County of Brant includes recreational paths (primary, secondary and tertiary as defined in the Trails Network 2017 Trails Master Plan) and their associated infrastructure (landscaping, bridges, trail surface, etc.) in the municipal parkland DC calculation. The County can consider agreements providing DC credits in exchange for developer-built parks and trails to support the earlier development of parks and trails in new development areas. The recommended guidelines, standards, and procedures for park design and development in the Recreation Master Plan should be utilized.

In the 10-Year Capital projects portfolio there are 140 park projects valued at $39.5 million specific to park development and equipment. Of these, there are 39 Development Charge projects valued at $29.5 million, of which $20.8 million will be recovered through DCs collected. Only those specific capital projects included in the current Development Charges Background Study (2019) and 2024 Update are eligible for funding. The benefit to existing residents for these projects is estimated at approximately $8.7 million and this amount, along with 101 other projects valued at approximately $10.0 million, will need to be funded through Parkland Dedication, Reserves, Grants, Donations and the Tax Levy.

Given the New Official Plan directs significant new growth in the primary settlement areas through intensification, the County will use DCs to primarily fund growth-related parks and recreation facilities. The background study and detailed analysis to support these items are documented in the Parks Master Plan.

Cash-in-lieu of Parkland Funding

The County will continue to accept CIL of the conveyance of lands or a combination of the two approaches. The Planning Act allows the County to not only fund parkland acquisition but allow for the upkeep and creation developments for parks or other public recreational purposes. In conjunction, a policy should be prepared to guide the use of CIL Reserve for park acquisition and park improvements for residential, commercial and industrial developments and redevelopments (as per Section 42 of the Planning Act).

Rate / Tax Support / Other Funding Sources

The growth of park facilities to meet service level targets is dependent on a stable foundation of existing facilities. Currently, there are funds through rate / tax support to pay for the renewal or replacement of park amenities that are at their end of life. Assessment growth will provide additional renewal funding for parks infrastructure, such as pathway lighting, minor park improvements and park redevelopment which will need to be prioritized over the long term.

Other funding sources for parkland development include:

- Municipal reserves
- Fundraising, donations and sponsorships
- User fees and surcharges
- Debenture financing
- Government programs and grants
- Project specific one-time grants
- Partnerships
- Cooperation between neighbouring municipalities

Conclusion

This Parks Master Plan provides a comprehensive framework for the development and management of the County of Brant's park system. It recognizes that parks are vital community assets that contribute to the health, well-being and quality of life of all residents.

The Plan acknowledges the ongoing changes and development within the County, including those outlined in the 2023 Official Plan ("A Simply Grand Plan") and the Municipal Comprehensive Review (MCR). It emphasizes the importance of flexibility and adaptability in the park system to respond to evolving community needs and accommodate future growth.

By prioritizing the creation of high-quality park spaces, protecting natural areas, fostering sustainability and accessibility and ensuring equity and inclusivity, the County can create a park system that enhances the lives of all residents, now and in the future.

The successful implementation of this Plan will require strong partnerships between the County, community organizations and residents. Through collaborative efforts and effective resource allocation, the County can achieve its vision of a vibrant and accessible park system that contributes to a thriving and sustainable community.


COUNTY OF
Brant
Simply Grand

Appendix 1 – Summary of Implications for Planning Division

Purpose

The Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.13 requires municipalities to create and make available a Parks Master Plan prior to adopting new Official Plan policies that require conveyance of parkland or payment in lieu of an alternative rate. Through the Parks Master Plan, the current conditions, future needs, and service targets are identified to inform the vision of the County's park systems to 2051.

The Plan supports the creation of healthy, accessible, and resilient communities within the County of Brant, while protecting the natural heritage system and ensuring the efficient delivery of public infrastructure. For the County's Planning Division to support the delivery of parks within the County, the following document outlines the direct implications that the Parks Master Plan has on the policy direction, capital planning and the use of planning tools such as parkland dedication and development approvals.

Parkland Supply

The County's park system is organized into a hierarchy of park types that serve different functions, service areas, and scales of use. These include Destination Parks, Community Parks, Neighbourhood Parks, Commons and Urban Green spaces, River Access Points, and Natural Areas and Open Green Spaces (does not contribute to the overall parkland supply count).

With a current population of 40,700 residents as of 2024, the County maintains approximately 67 parks totalling 142.40 hectares, translating to a current per capita rate of 3.50 hectares per 100 residents. However, a projected growing population of at least 59,000 residents by 2051 demands growth of the County's parkland supply to ensure all residents have functional, attractive, and accessible spaces to meet a variety of needs.

Through the Parks Master Plan, the County has set a parkland per capita target of 4.50 hectares per 1,000 residents by 2051, needing a total of 265.50 hectares for the projected population.

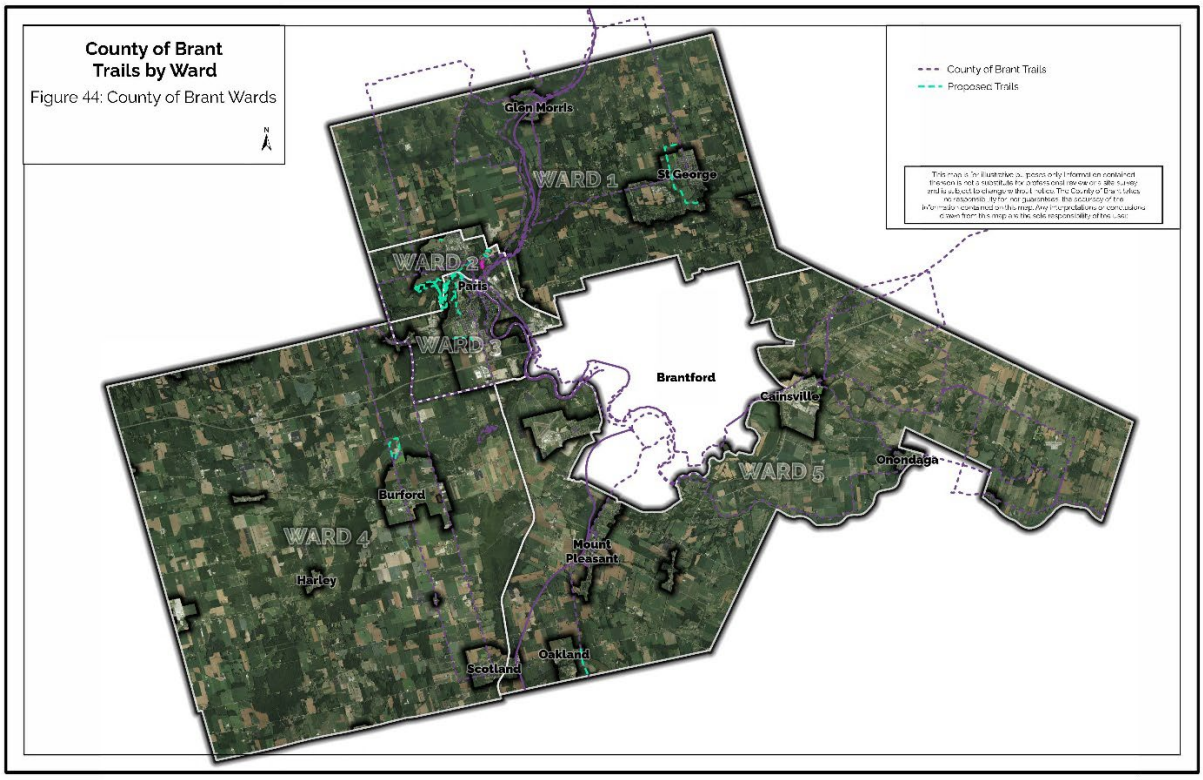
Based on upcoming park developments as outlined in Table 5 of the Parks Master Plan, the County anticipates the following shifts in the proportions of each parkland classification from 2024 to 2051, accommodating 87.95 of additional parkland hectares through 88 anticipated parks:

- Destination Parks: 53.25 hectares to 116.6 ha
- Community Parks: 46.12 ha to 57.16 ha
- Neighbourhood Parks: **39.33 ha to 51.41 ha**
- Commons & Urban Green Parks: **1.12 ha to 1.16 ha**
- River Access Points: **2.58 ha to 4.02 ha**

When combined with existing parkland, the total supply for 2051 reaches 230.35 hectares, falling short of the 265.50 target by 35.15 hectares. The policy directions and planning tools outlined in this summary will be key in providing proactive planning and acquisition strategies to meet the County's ambitious parkland goals.

Parkland Connectivity

The Plan emphasizes the creation of a connected parks system, through trails, active transportation facilities, and additional parks to enhance access to 2051, the County anticipates 10 new trails to provide an additional 18.3 Km of trail routes across the County. The below map illustrates the County's existing trail system and identifies the general locations of the 10 anticipated trails identified in the Parks Master Plan (Table 5). The below map is conceptual, precise routing information will be made available as trail are further planned and developed.



The Plan highlights an emphasis on integrating trails with parks, growth areas, river corridors and active transportation networks. Development review and infrastructure planning within the County should support trail planning for health, mobility, tourism and climate objectives.

Through the Official Plan's Complete Communities Framework, the County has an objective to provide a public park or facility within 400 metres of all residents within settlement areas. The Parks Master Plan proposes a 400 to 800 metre radius to account for deficiencies in rural areas where parks may be more accessible by car than through active transportation. The Official Plan shall be amended accordingly to accommodate the various radiuses in rural parts of the County.

Planning Implications

Required Official Plan Amendments

The Parks Master Plan identifies updated parkland supply targets, accessibility standards, and delivery tools to support growth to 2051. Official Plan amendments are required to embed these directions into the County's statutory land use framework and provide clear policy direction for parkland

acquisition, trail connectivity, climate resilience, and alternative park delivery mechanisms. The following Official Plan amendments are recommended to ensure efficient delivery of parks in the County:

Parkland Supply Policies:

- The County shall plan for a minimum parkland provision target of 4.5 hectares per 1000 residents by 2051, consistent with the Parks Master Plan.
- The County shall protect, expand, and enhance the municipal park system to achieve a minimum system-wide supply of approximately 265.5 hectares of parkland, recognizing a projected shortfall of approximately 35 hectares based on current supply and forecasted acquisition.
- The County shall prioritize parkland acquisition and expansion within designated growth areas, including Paris and St. George, where intensification and population growth will place increased demand on park infrastructure and limit opportunities for future land assembly.
- The County shall require that new development contributes to the achievement of an equitable distribution of parks across settlement areas, with priority given to addressing identified parkland deficiency areas identified in the Parks Master Plan.
- The County shall protect existing municipal parkland for active and passive recreation purposes and shall not permit the disposal or conversion of parkland except where it is demonstrated that park function and system-wide provision targets will be maintained or enhanced.
- The County shall plan for neighborhood-level park access within a 400–800 metre walking distance.

Enabling Privately-Owned Public Spaces:

- The County may permit the provision of Privately-Owned Publicly Accessible Spaces (POPS) as a supplementary form of open space in intensification areas and higher-density development. POPS shall not be a replacement for parkland dedication requirements.
- POPS policies may include the following provisions:
    - Publicly accessible at all times or during clearly defined public access hours;
    - Located in highly visible and publicly prominent locations;

    - Designed to function as usable open space, including seating, landscaping, shade, lighting, and barrier-free access;
    - Integrated with the surrounding active transportation network, streets, parks, and trails; and,
    - Secured through legal agreements that ensure long-term public access, maintenance, and public identification.
- The County may require POPS to meet urban design, accessibility, and safety standards established through guidelines, site plan control, or community planning permit approvals.
- POPS may be secured through development approvals, including zoning by-law amendments, site plan control, or community planning permit systems, supported by Official Plan policies and implemented through registered agreements.

Encouraging Partnerships and Collaborative Delivery:

- The County may pursue partnerships with conservation authorities, school boards, service clubs, community organizations, and other public agencies to support parkland acquisition, trail delivery, environmental stewardship, and shared facility development.
- Partnerships may include joint acquisition and shared use agreements, shared capital funding or grant applications, co-location of recreational and community facilities, and stewardship and maintenance partnerships.

Strategic Land Acquisition and Repurposing Lands

- The County may pursue strategic land acquisition outside of development-related dedication to address long-term parkland deficits, expand existing parks, protect natural heritage features, or secure trail corridors.
- Cash-in-lieu of parkland reserves may be used to support strategic acquisitions, park expansion, and targeted improvements in underserved areas, consistent with Council-approved priorities.
- Surplus or underutilized municipal lands may be evaluated for repurposing to recreational or open space uses, where such conversion advances park accessibility, climate resilience, or trail connectivity objectives.

Parkland Dedication Framework Updates

Much of the parkland acquisition to make up for the 35 hectare deficit will come from parkland dedication through developments in the County, and as such implementation of the Parks Master Plan will require updates to the County's parkland dedication framework to ensure that parkland conveyance, cash-in-lieu collection, and acquisition practices align with growth patterns, intensification pressures, and long-term system targets.

The County of Brant 2023 Official Plan supports Parkland dedication in accordance with the provisions of the Planning Act and the County of Brant's Parkland Dedication By-law. Under Section 42 of the Planning Act, municipalities may require parkland dedication as a condition of development or redevelopment approval, either through the conveyance of land or payment of cash-in-lieu. The Act allows two main dedication methods:

- **Standard rate:** up to 5% of land area for residential development and 2% for commercial or industrial development
- **Alternative rate** (if adopted by by-law): a higher residential rate based on unit count, at a rate of one hectare for each 600 net residential units proposed or at such lesser rate as may be specified in the by-law.

The Parks Master Plan establishes a County-wide target of 4.5 hectares of parkland per 1,000 residents, informed by a municipal scan of best practices (See Section 4 of The Parks Background Study) and a commitment to creating a more vibrant Brant. As of 2024, the County's parkland provision rate was 3.50 hectares per 1,000 residents.

Based on the County's target of providing 4.5 hectares of parkland per 1,000 residents and the anticipated delivery of new parks outlined in the Parks Master Plan, the projected 2051 parkland supply falls short by approximately 35 hectares. Updates to the Parkland Dedication By-law may be supported by general background analysis, which could include considering insights that might emerge from a Parkland Acquisition Strategy study or other approaches. This work could help inform thinking around priority areas and potential mechanisms for securing additional lands, such as through the Community Planning Permit System or partnerships. As the County continues to grow, evolving land use patterns, increased density, and

varying levels of walkability must guide these by-law updates to ensure parkland is delivered where it is most needed. This may involve considering applying differentiated urban and rural parkland targets while still maintaining the overarching County-wide goal of achieving 4.5 hectares of parkland per 1,000 residents.

Development Funding Tools

Beyond Parkland Dedication, development funding tools can support the County to both acquire, maintain, and upgrade existing parkland to meet resident needs. The following development funding streams shall support parkland:

- **Development Charges**: Under the Development Charges Act, 1997, municipalities can impose development charges (DCs) to recover capital costs from growth-related servicing needs. The County's Official Plan directs growth to primary settlement areas, and DCs collected for parks will primarily fund their acquisition, maintenance, and upgrades required for parks and recreation facilities. The 10-Year Capital Plan includes 140 park projects valued at $39.5 million. Of these, 39 projects worth $29.5 million are DC-eligible, with $20.8 million expected from DCs. The remaining $8.7 million for these projects, along with 101 other projects totaling $10 million, will be funded through parkland dedication, reserves, grants, donations, and tax levy.
- **Community Planning Permit System:** Through a Community Planning Permit By-law, conditions of approval and agreements can be structured to secure Facilities, Services, and Matters (FSM) that deliver tangible community benefits. These benefits include public art, public parks, open spaces, and other amenities aligned with the Parks Master Plan. Incentives such as additional height or density may be offered in exchange for these FSM contributions, ensuring that development supports broader community objectives. Contributions may be negotiated or set as a fixed amount collected from developments. These funds can be directed toward parkland acquisition, improvements, and other open space priorities, ensuring new development contributes to the County's long-term parkland goals.

Planning's Next Steps

Goal	Deliverable	Timeline
Internal guidance for CPPS and development review	1. Identify community needs, potential benefits and how Facilities, Services and Matters will be recovered through developments. 2. Engage stakeholders through a transparent process for successful CPPS implementation.	Short
Official Plan Amendments	1. Incorporate directions from the Parks Master Plan into the Official Plan. 2. Monitor the Plan, evaluate the implementation, and continue to amend as needed.	Short-Long
Parkland Dedication By-law review	1. Conduct a parkland acquisition strategy study. 2. Amend the Parkland Dedication By-Law as per the directions of the Parks Master Plan and the recommendations of the above study.	Short
Identify priority areas for the establishment of natural spaces and urban forests to achieve the 30% canopy coverage as specified in the Climate Action Plan. This strategy will enable the expansion of green spaces, safeguard existing ecosystems, and facilitate the restoration of areas that have experienced degradation.	1. Pinpoint priority areas for new natural spaces and urban forests. This targeted approach will expand greenspaces, protect existing ecosystems, and restore damaged areas.	Medium
Address the challenges posed by climate change through the	1. Mitigating the impact of extreme weather events by	Long

strategic development of resilient parks and trails.	encouraging weather resistant and floodproofing development. 2. Reducing the overall carbon emissions being produced by encouraging active transportation and green infrastructure. 3. Encourage tree planting and native vegetative landscaping in developments.	
Preserve natural ecosystems by conserving, restoring and expanding habitats, fostering reclamation, integrating nature into new developments, and advocating for sustainable methods to enhance ecological diversity.	1. Ensure an environmental impact study, or environmental implementation plan is required as part of a proposal for infrastructure, development and/or site alteration and shall be submitted as part of a complete application where the proposal is within and/or on adjacent lands to the Natural Heritage System. 2. Monitor the effectiveness of current Official Plan policies for Environmental Impact Study and Environmental Implementation Plan Requirements and update accordingly to achieve the goal. 3. Apply compensation policies to achieve 30% tree canopy coverage.	Ongoing